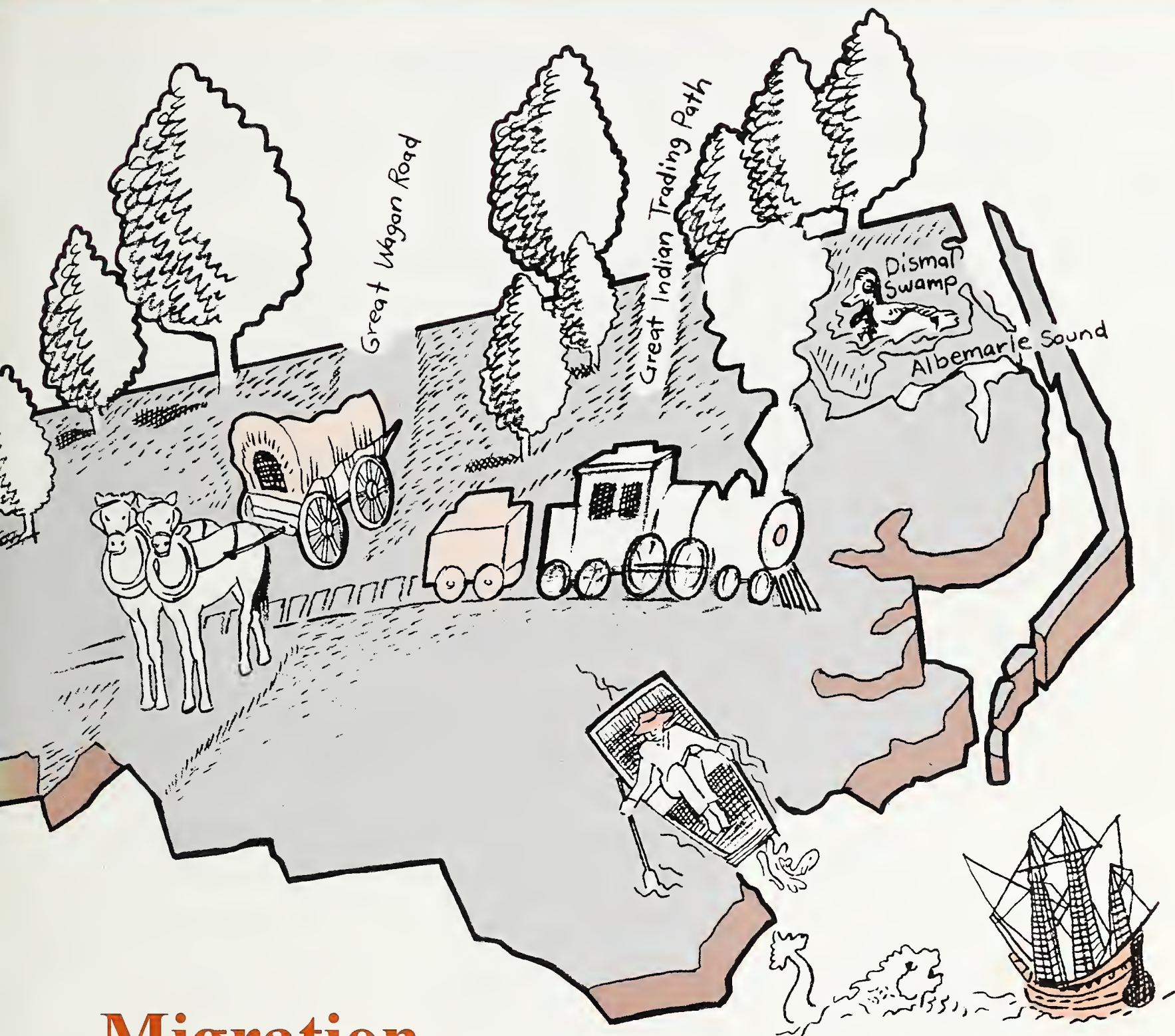


TAR HEEL JUNIOR HISTORIAN

THE STATE HISTORY JOURNAL FOR INQUIRING STUDENTS

Spring 1995

Volume 34, Number 2



Migration and Settlement in North Carolina



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The last four decades of this century have witnessed the immigration of numerous people from other parts of our nation and from other countries to North Carolina. This trend has added a richness and a diversity to life in our state. The articles in this issue of Tar Heel Junior Historian tell about these contemporary immigrants as well as the first immigrants.

Most of the European settlers who came to this area in the 1600s and 1700s first landed in other British colonies such as Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina and only later moved into North Carolina. They came only after living, sometimes for several generations, in other colonies.

This was particularly true for the Scotch-Irish and German people who located in our Piedmont Region during the third quarter of the 1700s. Likewise, many Africans were brought into North Carolina as slaves after being shipped to other colonies that had better seaports.

Emigration

Economic hard times and an unresponsive state government caused many North Carolinians to

emigrate, or seek out other places to live, during the early decades of the 1800s.

Others, like many Native Americans, were forced off their lands by the arrival of European settlers into the area.

Also, social inequality and a repressive political environment caused many African Americans to leave the state, even as late as the mid-1900s.

The last four decades of this century have witnessed the immigration of numerous people from other parts of our nation and from other countries to North Carolina. This trend has added a richness and a diversity to life in our state. The articles in this issue of *Tar Heel Junior Historian* tell about these contemporary immigrants as well as the first immigrants.

Definitions

To **migrate** is to move from one place to another either for long-term relocation or for seasonal trips. **Migrants** are the people who move.

To **immigrate** is to migrate, or move, into an area. These migrants may be called immigrants.

To **emigrate** is to migrate, or move, out of an area. These migrants may be called emigrants.

continued from page 1

1775

Approximately seventy thousand slaves are living in North Carolina.

mid-1780s

The earliest permanent White settlers arrive in present-day Buncombe County in the Mountain Region.

1790

North Carolina is the third most populous state in America.

1800–1835

Largely the result of its do-nothing state government, North Carolina is nicknamed the Rip Van Winkle State.

mid-1820s

America's first gold rush attracts hundreds of miners to the Mountain Region.

1827

Buncombe Turnpike is completed.

1835

A constitutional convention equalizes power in state government between the eastern Coastal Plain Region and the western Piedmont and Mountain Regions.

1838

North Carolina Cherokee are led on the Trail of Tears to present-day Oklahoma.

1860

North Carolina is the twelfth-most-populous state in the Union.

1898

A race riot chases several hundred African Americans from Wilmington. Soon, White voters, with the help of an intimidating group known as the Red Shirts, change the state constitution to require poll taxes and literacy tests to vote. These developments encourage many Blacks to leave the state.

1910–1950

Nearly 280,000 African Americans leave North Carolina as part of "The Great Migration."

1950–1960

Out-migration continues as over 300,000 more people leave North Carolina than move in.

1960s

The Civil Rights movement and the repeal of Jim Crow laws as well as the growth of jobs and hopes for a better quality of life lay the groundwork for a gradual return of many Black families.

1980–1990

North Carolina has a net in-migration of almost 375,000 people. Many of these are from other cultures and countries around the world.

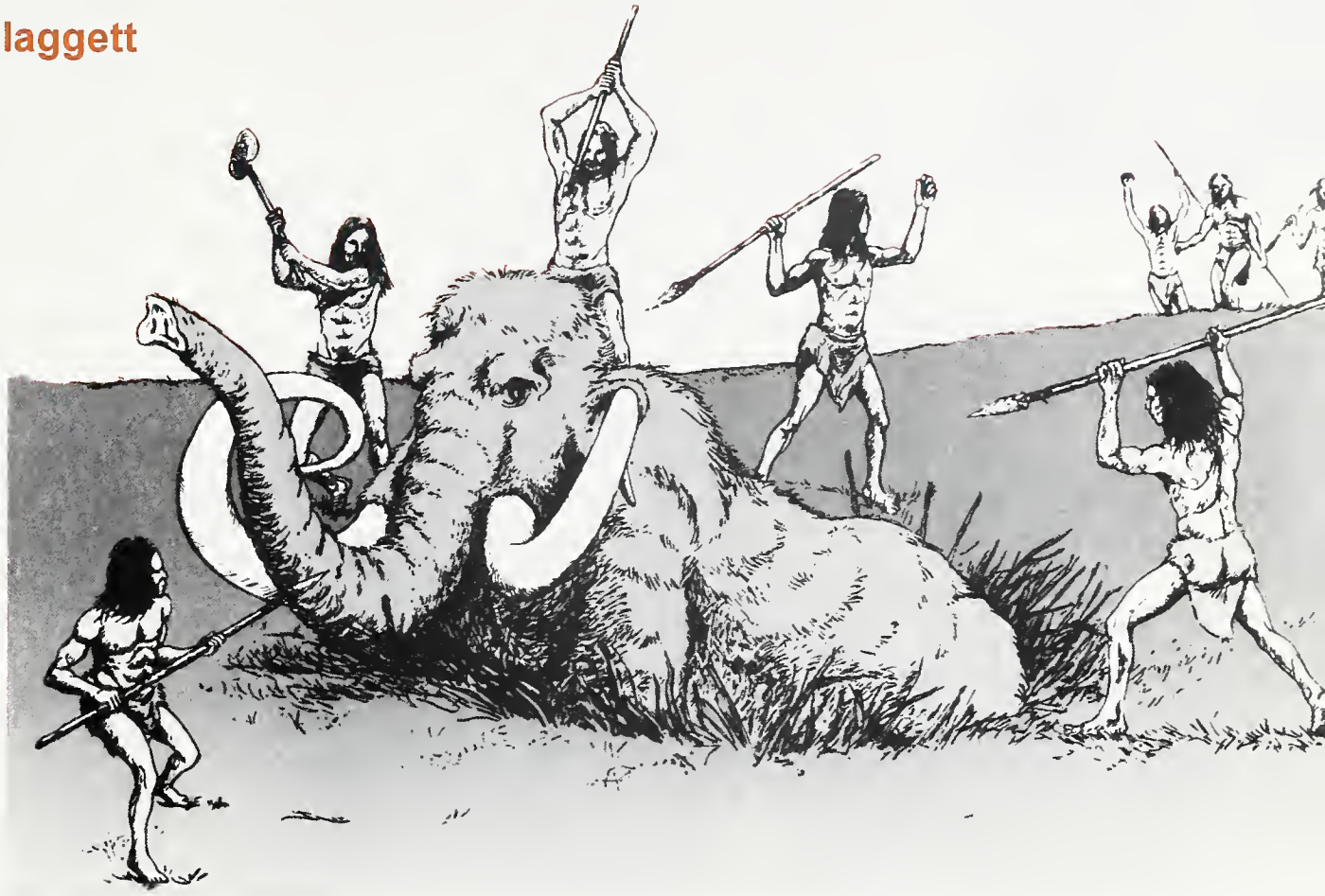
First immigrants: Native American settlement of North Carolina

By Stephen R. Claggett

Over four hundred years ago, English colonists trying to settle on **Roanoke Island** encountered many Native Americans along the coast. At that time more than thirty Native American tribes were living in present-day North Carolina. They spoke languages derived from three language groups, the Siouan, Iroquoian, and Algonquian.

Where did these Native Americans come from? Who were their **prehistoric ancestors**? How do we know anything at all about them?

None of the prehistoric Native Americans who lived in North America had developed any sort of written language. They relied instead on oral traditions, such as storytelling, to keep records of their origins, myths, and histories. Our present knowledge of prehistoric inhabitants of this state depends on rare early historical accounts and, especially, on information gained through **archaeology**.



In the Pleistocene epoch, more than twelve thousand years ago, the climate of present-day North Carolina was different. Paleo-Indians hunted now extinct animals such as the woolly mammoth for food and clothing.

Prehistoric Native Americans

Archaeologists can trace the ancestry of Native Americans to at least twelve thousand years ago, to the time of the last Ice Age in the **Pleistocene epoch**. During the Ice Age, ocean levels dropped and revealed land that had previously been under the Bering Sea. Native American ancestors walked on that land from present-day **Siberia** to Alaska. Evidence suggests that their population grew rapidly and that they

settled throughout Canada, the Great Plains, and the Eastern Woodlands, which included the North Carolina area.

The climate on the eastern seaboard was wetter and cooler twelve thousand years ago. Many species of animals roamed the forests and grasslands of our area, including now extinct examples of elephants (mastodons), wild horses, ground sloths, and giant bison. Other animals, now absent from the Southeast, included moose, caribou, elk, and porcupines.

Paleo-Indians, as archaeologists call those first people, hunted for these animals in groups using spears. They used the animals' meat, skins, and remaining parts for food, clothing, and other needs. They also spent considerable time gathering wild plant foods and may have caught shellfish and fish.



Because prehistoric Indians did not have a written language to preserve their history, much of what we know about them comes from archaeology. Archaeologists can study artifacts like these spear points (left), which date back to the time of the Archaic Indians, to learn more about how these Native Americans lived. Just like their ancestors, the Paleo-Indians (above), Archaic Indians did not have bows and arrows. They used spears to hunt and probably hunted in groups.



John White was an artist who took part in the trips to Roanoke. His drawings of the Native Americans he saw help us to learn more about how those Indians lived. The Indians that White saw used many of the practices of the Woodland culture. For example, they made canoes for travel and for fishing. By looking at this engraving (below), based on one of White's paintings, think about how they made canoes.

Archaeologists carefully removed this canoe (left) from Lake Phelps (in present-day Washington and Tyrrell Counties) for study. It dates back to 700 B.C., during the Woodland time period. The canoe is currently on exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.



These first inhabitants of North Carolina were nomads, which means they moved frequently across the land in search of food and other resources.

Descendants of the Paleo-Indians are called Archaic Indians. They occupied eastern North America from about 9000 to 2000 B.C. As the Ice Age ended, the types of forests in the Southeast gradually changed and became more like those of today. Archaic Indians adapted their techniques of gathering, hunting, and fishing to the environments of this new **Holocene epoch**.

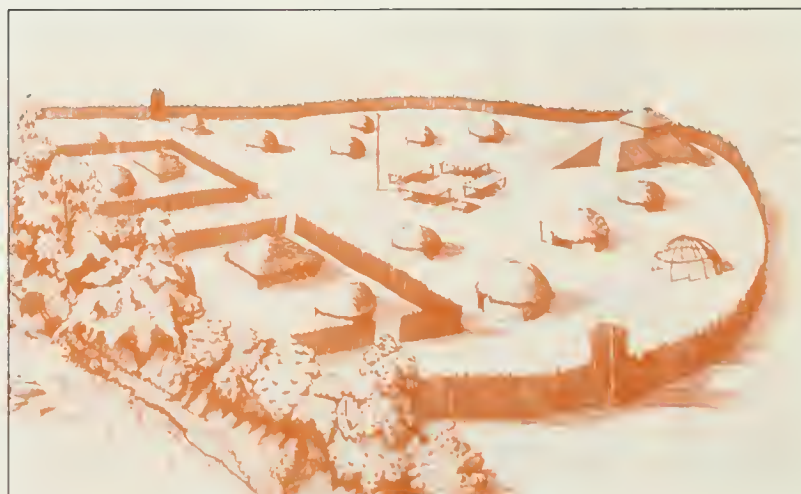
Archaic people, like their ancestors, were nomads. They traveled widely on foot to gather food, to obtain raw materials for making tools or shelters, and to visit and trade with neighbors. Some Archaic people may have used watercraft, particularly canoes made by digging out the centers of trees.

These Archaic Indians did not have three things that are commonly associated with prehistoric Indians—bows and arrows, pottery, or an agricultural economy. In fact, the

gradual introduction of these items and activities into North Carolina's Archaic cultures marks the transition to the Woodland culture, which began around 2000 B.C.

Woodland Indians followed most of the **subsistence practices** of their Archaic ancestors. They hunted and fished and gathered food when deer, turkeys, **shad**, and acorns were plentiful. But they also began farming to make sure they had enough food for the winter and early spring months, when natural food sources were not available. They cleared fields and planted and harvested crops like sunflowers, squash, gourds, beans, and **maize**.

Around A.D. 1000 a group of Mississippian Indians moved into the Pee Dee River Valley. Besides several villages, they built a ceremonial center now called Town Creek Indian Mound. Parts of the site have been reconstructed as a state historic site in present-day Montgomery County.



The Woodland Indians also developed bow-and-arrow technology. With a bow and arrow, Indians could hunt more efficiently, using single hunters instead of groups of hunters.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Woodland Indians were much more committed to settled village life than their ancestors had been. Though remains of their settlements can be found throughout North Carolina, these Indians tended to live in semipermanent villages in stream valleys.

Evidence also suggests that some Native Americans adopted religious and political ideas from a fourth major prehistoric culture, called Mississippian. Ancestral Cherokee Indian groups in the Mountains adopted some of the Mississippian ways. In prehistoric times, the so-called Pee Dee Indians were Mississippian Indians. The Pee Dee built a major regional center at Town Creek in present-day Montgomery County.

Mississippian Indians were more common in other parts of the Southeast and Midwest. They had a **hierarchical** society, with status determined by heredity or **exploits** in war. They were militarily aggressive and fought battles to gain and defend group prestige, territories, and favored trade and **tribute** networks. The surviving, often **flamboyant** artifacts from Mississippian Indian sites reflect the need that those individuals felt to show their status and glorify themselves.

Measuring the involvement of historic North Carolina Indians with those large, powerful Mississippian groups is very difficult. Some minor

elements of Mississippian culture can be found in various parts of our state, particularly in pottery types or religious or political ornaments. The Algonquian-speaking Indians met by the Roanoke Island colonists reflected some Mississippian influence, as did the later Cherokee.

Historic Native Americans

Most of the Indian groups met by early European explorers were practicing economic and settlement patterns of the Woodland culture. They grew crops of maize, tobacco, beans, and squash, spent considerable time hunting and fishing, and lived in small villages.

In 1550, before the arrival of the first permanent European settlers, more than one hundred thousand Native Americans were living in present-day North Carolina. By 1800 that number had fallen to about twenty thousand.

What happened to the Native Americans? Unlike Europeans, Native Americans had no resistance, or immunity, to diseases that the Europeans brought with them. These diseases, such as smallpox, measles, and influenza, killed thousands of natives throughout the state.

Settlement by European Americans also pushed many Native Americans off their land. Some made treaties with the Whites, giving up land and moving farther west. Others fought back in battle but lost and were forced to give up their lands. These battles, as well as war with other Native American tribes, also killed many.

The fates of the three largest Native American tribes—the Tuscarora, the Catawba, and the Cherokee—are examples of the fates of the other tribes in North Carolina.

In the Coastal Plain Region, most of the smaller Algonquian-speaking tribes moved westward in the face of growing numbers of white settlers. But the Iroquoian-speaking Tuscarora stayed, living in villages along the Pamlico and Neuse Rivers.

Tensions between White settlers and the Tuscarora increased as



In 1585, when the first English settlers arrived at Roanoke Island, over thirty tribes including more than one hundred thousand Indians were living in what became North Carolina. They spoke languages derived from three language groups—the Iroquoian, Siouan, and Algonquian. This map shows where the tribes lived and which language group they belonged to.

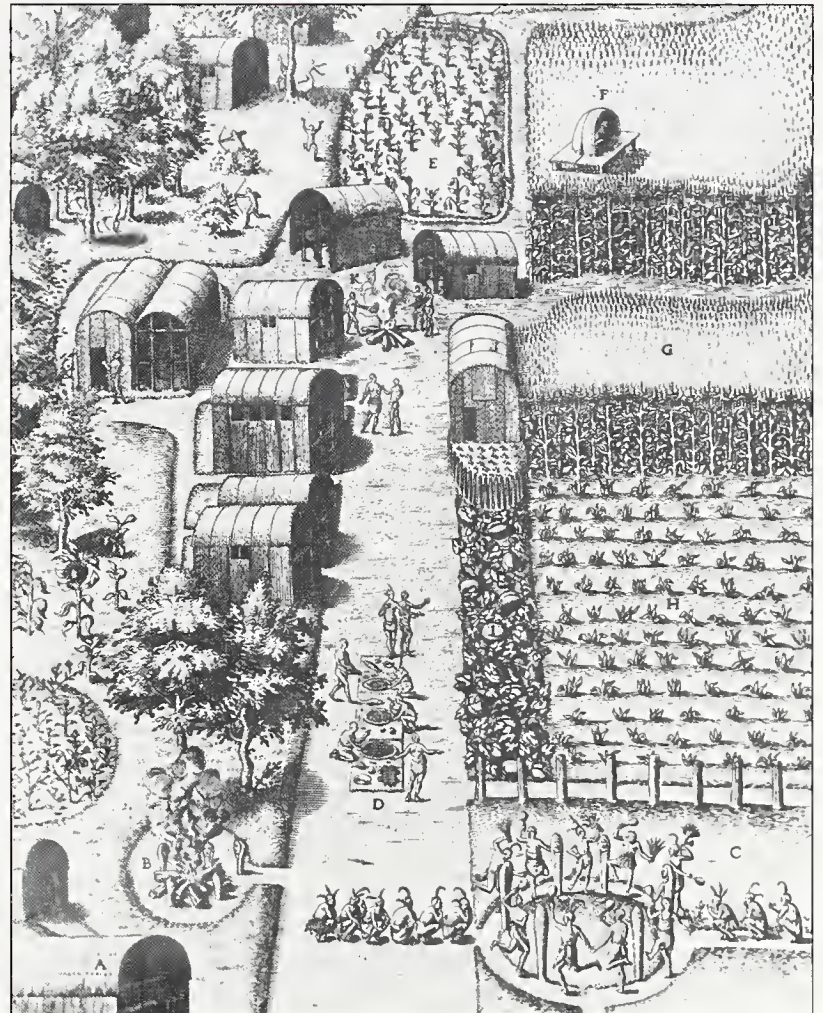
White settlements in the Coastal Plain grew. European settlers would not let the Tuscarora hunt near their farms, which reduced the Tuscarora's hunting lands. Some White traders cheated the Tuscarora. Some settlers even captured and sold Tuscarora into slavery.

The settlement of New Bern in 1710 took up even more of the Tuscarora land and may have provoked the Tuscarora Indian War (1711–1714). In 1711 the Tuscarora

attacked White settlements along the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers. They were defeated in 1712 by an army led by Colonel John Barnwell of South Carolina. Later in 1712 the Tuscarora agreed to a peace treaty. According to terms in that treaty they were to move out of the area between the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers.

After this peace, the North Carolina Assembly refused to reward Barnwell and his South Carolina

This engraving, based on a painting by John White, shows the town of Secotan. What can you learn about how the Indians lived by studying this picture? Can you identify the gardens of tobacco, squash, and corn? Can you find the raised cottage for the watcher of the crops? What do you think that person's job was? Can you locate the place where celebrations and festivals were held? Did you notice that the houses are different from those shown at Town Creek (see previous page, bottom) and that the town is not surrounded by a palisade of logs?



After the defeat of the Tuscarora at the battle of Fort Noherooka (in present-day Greene County), most of the Tuscarora left the colony and White immigration into the Coastal Plain increased. This map (right) shows the colonial camps and the battlefield around the fort. The zigzag lines represent trenches that were dug to the fort by the colonial forces of colonists and friendly Indians. The circle labeled B was a battery built up high enough so that the colonial forces could fire into the fort.



five thousand Catawba estimated to have been living in the Carolinas in the early 1600s, fewer than three hundred remained in 1784.

In the Mountain Region lived the Cherokee. At the start of the French and Indian War (1754–1763), they joined the British and the colonists in fighting the French. But when some Cherokee were killed by Virginia settlers, the Cherokee began attacking White settlements along the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers. They were defeated and made peace in 1761.

In return for this peace, the British promised that no White settlements would be allowed west of the Appalachian Mountains. But land-hungry Whites ignored this promise and continued to settle on Cherokee land.

During the American Revolution (1775–1783), the Cherokee sided with the British. They thought that if the British won, the British government would protect their land from further settlement. They also hoped to gain back some of the lands they had lost to the Whites. During the war, Cherokee and Creek Indians attacked White settlements. Colonists sent troops that defeated the Indians. In a 1777 treaty, the Cherokee gave up all lands east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Conflicts continued into the 1790s. A 1792 treaty created a boundary between Cherokee and White settlers. The United States government promised to protect the Cherokee land from further settlement. But as White settlement continued, the federal government began thinking about removing the Cherokee and other Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River. In 1838 President Martin Van Buren acted on a policy established earlier by Andrew Jackson and sent federal troops to forcibly remove the Cherokee to the newly established Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. About twenty thousand Cherokee were forced to leave. The path they took has been called the Trail of Tears because so many died on this journey west.



The Trail of Tears (above), a painting by Robert Lindneux, shows the forced removal of the Cherokee from the Mountain Region of North Carolina to land in Oklahoma. The path they followed has become known as the Trail of Tears because so many died on the journey.

troops. The Assembly felt the army had not completely destroyed the Tuscarora's power. As a result, while returning to South Carolina, Barnwell's troops killed some Tuscarora, captured about two hundred Tuscarora women and children, and sold them into slavery for the money. The Tuscarora **retaliated** by attacking more towns. The Tuscarora were defeated in a 1713 battle at Fort Noherooka (in present-day Greene County). Up to

one thousand four hundred Tuscarora had been killed in the war. Another one thousand had been captured and sold into slavery. Many of the surviving Tuscarora left North Carolina and settled in New York and Canada.

In the Piedmont Region, the Siouan-speaking Catawba Indians were friendly to the settlers. But disease, especially smallpox, killed many. War with neighboring tribes also reduced their number. Of the

Some Cherokee avoided the troops and stayed behind in North Carolina. They joined the Oconaluftee Cherokee Indians, who, because of an 1819 treaty, were allowed to stay in North Carolina. Together, their descendants make up the Eastern Band of the Cherokee and now live in the Qualla Boundary, a reservation in five different counties in western North Carolina. Several other modern Native American groups, such as the Lumbee, the Haliwa-Saponi, and the Coharie, live in North Carolina. They are direct descendants of prehistoric and early historic inhabitants. Altogether, roughly eighty thousand Native Americans now live in North Carolina.



From a population of more than a hundred thousand in 1550, when the Europeans first landed in America, to a low of only a few thousand in the late 1800s, North Carolina's Native American population is again increasing. Modern groups now living in the state take great pride in their heritage.

Definitions

In 1584, English explorers were looking for a place to establish a colony in America. They landed on **Roanoke Island** on the coast of present-day North Carolina, and claimed the land for England. After exploring for six weeks they returned to England. In 1585 and 1587 the English tried to set up a permanent colony on the island but failed.

Prehistoric people are people who live in a society that has not yet developed a written language and about whom no written records, or primary sources, exist. Native Americans who lived before the arrival of European colonists were prehistoric. They did not have a written language and no written records about them exist. Once explorers met and wrote about the Native Americans, the Indians could be described as historic Indians.

Ancestors are people from the past to whom someone today is related. Your parents are your closest ancestors.

Archaeology is the scientific study of how people lived long ago. **Archaeologists** excavate, or dig up, artifacts, or man-made objects, left behind by people who lived in the past. They study the remains of objects, such as buildings, tools, weapons, and clothing, to learn more about these people.

The **Pleistocene epoch** is a time period that began about 1.6 million years ago. It was followed by the current **Holocene epoch**, which began 10,000 years ago.

Siberia is a region in northern Asia. It extends from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Descendants are people related by blood to a past generation. You are a descendant of your parents.

Subsistence practices are things people must do to stay alive.

Shad is a type of saltwater fish that migrates up freshwater streams to spawn, or reproduce.

Maize is a grain crop commonly called corn.

A **hierarchical** society organizes people into classes or groups, with one group ranked above another.

Exploits are acts, especially heroic or noteworthy ones.

A **tribute** is a payment by one ruler or nation to another as a sign of submission.

A **flamboyant** object is showy and highly decorated.

To **retaliate** is to get revenge.



Shallow water around the Outer Banks was dangerous to ships and discouraged early immigration into present-day North Carolina by sea. Notice the sunken ships in this engraving (below) by Theodor De Bry. The engraving is based on a John White painting and appeared in Thomas Harriot's publication, *A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia*, in 1590. Can you read the words below the map that describe the dangers of these islands? In the 1650s (left) English settlers from Virginia began to explore land that later became the Albemarle subregion in North Carolina. Since roads to the area were few and were in bad condition, many settlers traveled by boat on rivers and through swamps. These settlers migrated to the Albemarle to find farmland and to trade with the Native Americans.

Arrivals in the east: Settlement of the Coastal Plain, 1650 to 1775

By Alan D. Watson

From the 1650s to the 1770s, the Coastal Plain Region of the land we now call North Carolina changed greatly. European American settlers began arriving, pushing back the Native Americans who had lived there for thousands of years. Against their will, many Africans and African Americans were forced to settle in the area as slaves. They came with European settlers from other colonies or were imported from other countries.

What is the North Carolina Coastal Plain? The plain stretches from the present-day Virginia border to the present-day South Carolina border. It reaches inland from the Atlantic Ocean to the **fall line**, which roughly follows the western edges of present-day Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Johnston, Harnett, Hoke, and Scotland Counties. The Coastal Plain can be divided into three subregions: the Albemarle, the middle Coastal Plain, and the Cape Fear. Each of these subregions has a different geography and a different history of settlement.





When you think of the ships that brought settlers from overseas, you may think of ships the size of the Titanic or the Queen Elizabeth II. But the ships that the settlers used were much smaller. Compare the size of this ship and the size of the man on it, and imagine how crowded the ship would have been with others on board. This ship, the Elizabeth II, based in Manteo, is a representation of the type of ship used by the Roanoke colonists in the 1580s.

The Albemarle

The first part of North Carolina to be settled by European Americans was the Albemarle. The Albemarle extends from the border with Virginia to the north shore of the Albemarle Sound.

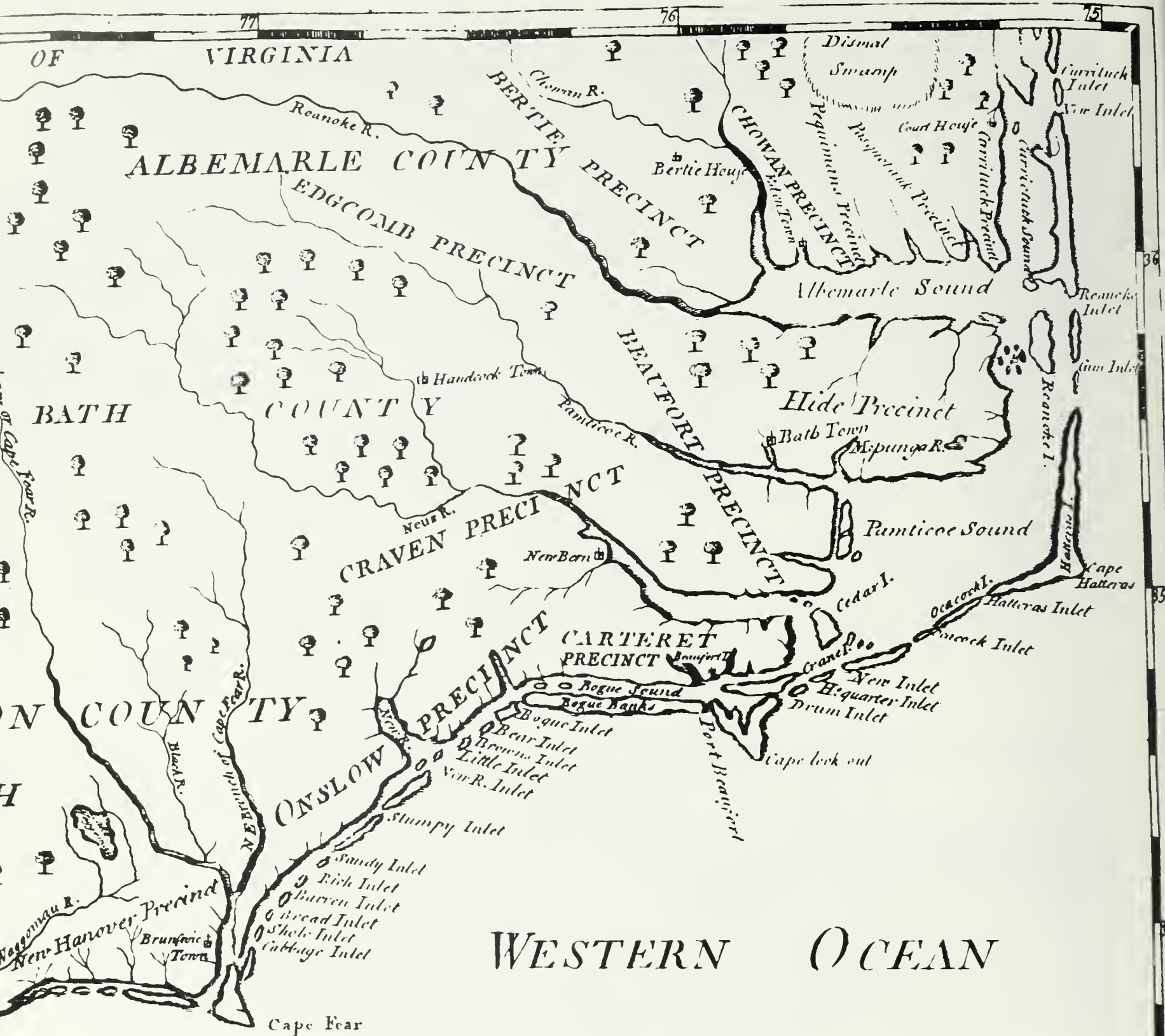
After the failed Roanoke colonies in the 1580s, the English focused on colonizing present-day Virginia. But in the mid-1600s, Virginians began exploring and acquiring land in the Albemarle area. Why did they begin settling there? Most hoped to find better farmland and to make money by trading with the Native Americans.

By 1655 Nathaniel Batts, a trader with the Indians, became at least a temporary resident of **Carolina**. The first permanent inhabitants were probably John Harvey and his family, who were living in the area by 1659. As more Virginians moved into the Albemarle, its population grew to several hundred settlers by the 1660s.

In 1663 King Charles II granted **Carolina** to eight prominent Englishmen, who were called the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. Settlement was slow in the first decades of the Lords Proprietors'

rule. High taxes, uncertainty about land titles, attacks by Native Americans, and inefficient government all discouraged immigration and settlement.

The difficulty of traveling into Carolina also discouraged immigration. The Outer Banks, which are barrier islands along the coast, were dangerous to ships and discouraged immigration by sea. Many ships ran aground in the shallow waters near these islands. The Great Dismal Swamp, poor roads, and rivers that were difficult to navigate also made traveling difficult.



**A MAP OF
NORTH
CAROLINA.**

The large map (above) appeared in John Brickell's 1737 Natural History of North Carolina. It shows the Coastal Plain as surveyed at the time. The present-day map (left) outlines the area of the Coastal Plain against the state's modern boundaries.

The map on the previous page shows some of the settlement that had taken place by 1730 in the Coastal Plain. Do you recognize some of the landmarks and names of present-day towns and counties? What do we now call the Western Ocean?

Read the description of the Albemarle subregion in the article and find the area on the map.

Do you see the Dismal Swamp? Can you find the Outer Banks and the two major inlets mentioned in the article that allowed early ships to reach the shore of the mainland?

Now read the description of the middle Coastal Plain subregion in the article and find the area on the map.

Find the Pamlico River and Pamlico Sound. What major towns are

located in this subregion? Why do you think these towns did not become major ports for ocean trade?

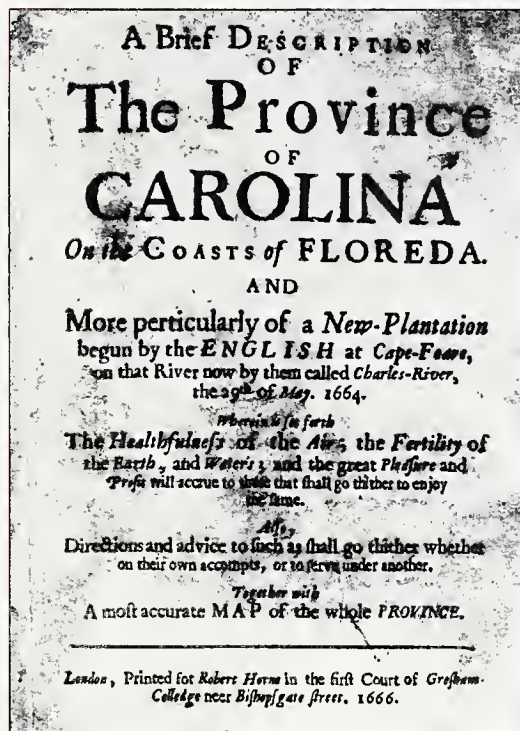
Now read the description of the Cape Fear subregion in the article and find the area on the map.

What is meant by the term "lower Cape Fear"? From reading the article, what is the difference between the Cape Fear River and the other rivers in the Coastal Plain? Can you see that difference on the map?

Now think about the map and the region as a whole.

After studying the geography of the Coastal Plain, can you better understand some of the conflicts that developed in these early years? Over the years, what kinds of developments have helped to unite the three subregions?

In this 1663 document (right, top), known as the Carolina Charter, King Charles II granted Carolina to eight Lords Proprietors. If North Carolina today had the boundaries described in this charter, the state would stretch to the Pacific Ocean and include parts of many southern states. The Lords Proprietors and others tried to encourage settlement in Carolina by publishing promotional tracts like this one (right, bottom). In spite of these efforts, settlement was slow in the first decades of the Lords Proprietors' rule.



But settlers did find ways to migrate into the area. Many from Virginia traveled by land or journeyed up the Elizabeth and Nansemond Rivers and down the Chowan River. Others may have come to Carolina by ship, sailing from other colonies along the Atlantic coast and passing through the Outer Banks at Currituck and Roanoke Inlets.

The Middle Coastal Plain

In the late 1600s some settlers began crossing the Albemarle Sound to settle in the middle Coastal Plain, which stretches from the Albemarle Sound to present-day Duplin and Onslow Counties. By 1691 they had settled along the Pamlico River in Bath County.

More settlers traveled down the coast to settle in present-day Craven County by 1703, Carteret County by 1708, and Onslow County by 1714. These settlers included people from the Albemarle, Virginia, Maryland, and New England as well as immigrants from England. Like those who settled in the Albemarle, these people hoped to profit by farming the colony's fertile land and by trading with the Native Americans.

French, German, and Swiss people also settled in the middle Coastal Plain. Many French Huguenots had settled in Virginia. But as the population in Virginia grew, land became more scarce. As a result, some Huguenots moved to Carolina. One group settled at the head of Pamlico Sound in 1690, and another settled along the Trent River around 1707 or 1708.

Swiss people and Germans from the Palatinate also came to present-



In 1710 Baron Christoph von Graffenried led a group of Germans and Swiss to the middle Coastal Plain, where they founded New Bern near the joining of the Neuse and Trent Rivers. Like the settlers who had earlier immigrated into the Albemarle, these immigrants also hoped to profit by farming the area's fertile land and by trading with the Native Americans. The settlement of New Bern, though, may have sparked the Tuscarora Indian War. After the Tuscarora were defeated, white immigration into the middle Coastal Plain increased.

day North Carolina. The Swiss were fleeing **religious persecution**, and the Germans were fleeing war, cold winters, and poverty. In 1710, under the direction of Baron Christoph von Graffenried, the Swiss and Germans created and settled the town of New Bern and other areas near the joining of the Neuse and Trent Rivers.

The settlement of New Bern may have sparked the Tuscarora Indian War (1711–1714), in which the Tuscarora Indians were defeated. Immigration to the middle Coastal Plain increased afterward because the war reduced the threat of Indian attacks on settlers.

The Cape Fear

In the mid-1720s, the first permanent settlers arrived in the area around

the lower Cape Fear River. Their arrival was due mainly to the efforts of South Carolina planter Maurice Moore and **North Carolina** governor George Burrington. Moore had come to North Carolina to help fight the Tuscarora Indians. He became interested in settling in the Cape Fear area and encouraged others in South Carolina to settle there as well. Burrington ignored South Carolina's claim to land on the west bank of the Cape Fear River. Instead, he granted this land to settlers who left South Carolina to settle in North Carolina.

The settlers from South Carolina were fleeing **economic depression**, high taxes, and political unrest in their colony. Other settlers came from England, Scotland, and Ireland

as well as the colonies of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Some traveled on a new one-hundred-mile road between the Neuse River and the Cape Fear River.

Most settlers were attracted to this region by vast amounts of unclaimed land that were available and by commercial opportunities offered by the Cape Fear River. Since the Cape Fear River was the only deep river in the Coastal Plain that emptied into the ocean, large ships could travel it to the ports of Brunswick and Wilmington. As a result, settlers could send their goods to market and could trade with other colonies and with Europe more easily.

In the 1730s Welsh and **Scotch-Irish** began settling in the Cape Fear area. Around 1730 a group of Welsh

that boats required more time to reach port, to pick up or deliver cargo, and to return to the ocean. Because getting goods to market was so difficult, most settlers could not make money by raising crops for export and did not need slaves. Though some did grow wheat and tobacco for export, many lived as **subsistence farmers**.

Development and Conflict

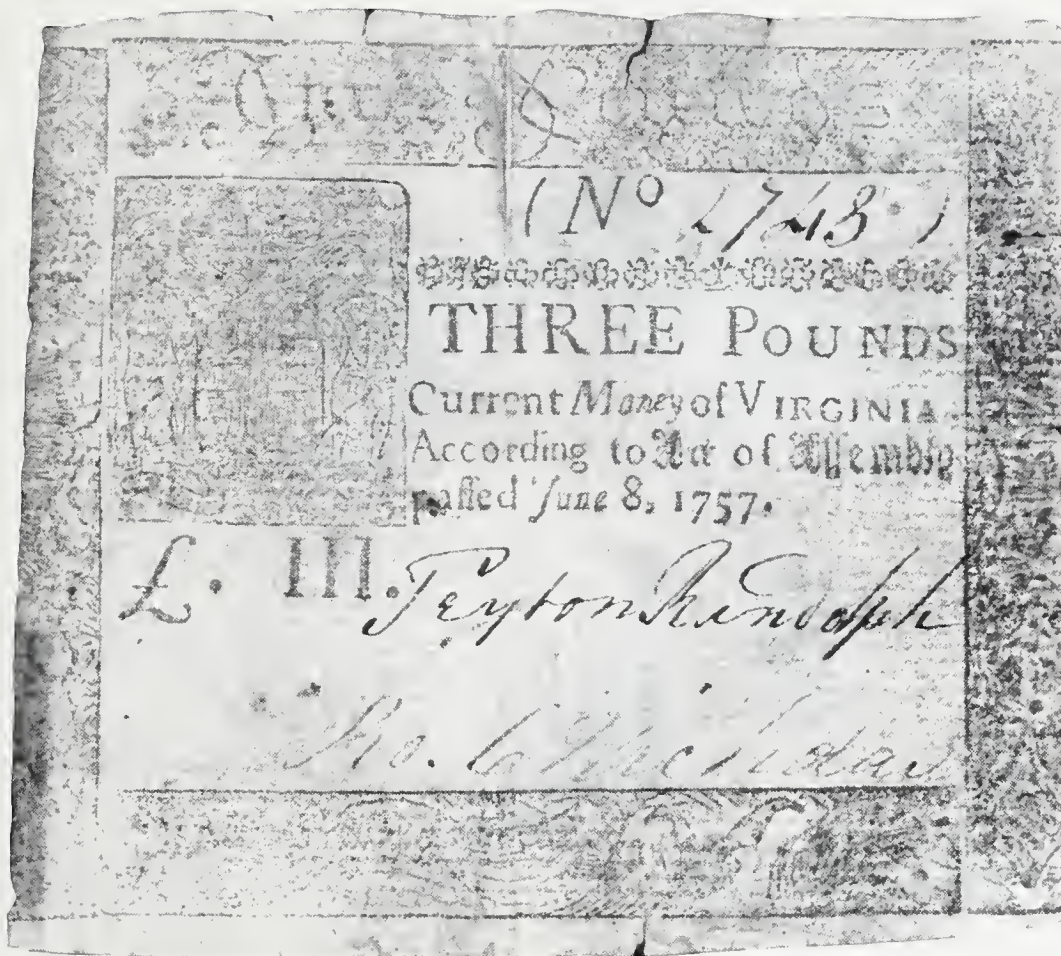
Differences in geography, economic interests, and settlement patterns divided the Coastal Plain and helped make each subregion different. Swamps, rivers, and poor roads made transportation, trade, and contact between them difficult. North Carolina lacked a unifying, common urban center such as Williamsburg in Virginia or Charleston in South Carolina.

Few economic ties bound coastal inhabitants together. The Albemarle counties tended to resemble Virginia. Early residents came from Virginia, used Virginia ports for trade, and used Virginia money. On the other hand, the Cape Fear, with its plantation culture, large number of slaves, and concentration of wealth, resembled South Carolina's Low Country.

At times, these differences caused political conflict. In the 1740s and 1750s, for example, the Albemarle counties opposed the southern counties' demand for equal representation in the colonial legislature. They also opposed the southern counties' desire to place the colony's capital in New Bern. After resolving these conflicts, however, the counties in the Coastal Plain became more united. In the 1770s, they worked together to oppose the demands of the newly settled and growing area called the backcountry, or Piedmont Region.



In the 1720s, the first permanent White settlers began arriving in the lower Cape Fear area. The Cape Fear River was different from other rivers in the Coastal Plain Region—it emptied directly into the ocean and was deep enough for large ships to enter. Those two differences made trading with other colonies and countries profitable in the Cape Fear subregion. Since Cape Fear farmers had reason to raise excess produce, they created large farms, or plantations, along the river that relied on the work of African and African American slaves.



Settlers in the Albemarle often came from Virginia and used Virginia money like this money from the late 1750s. They also traded with Virginia and used Virginia ports for trade. They had little contact with settlers elsewhere in the Coastal Plain. Because settlers in the Coastal Plain subregions had little contact with each other and had different interests and backgrounds, conflicts sometimes arose between them.

Definitions

The **fall line**, or fall zone, is an imaginary line that connects the locations on rivers where waterfalls are first found when traveling inland. Above the fall line, rivers are more difficult to navigate.

Carolana was an early name given to the land between Florida and the Albemarle Sound. When King Charles II granted this land to the Lords Proprietors, he referred to the land as **Carolina** and included land north of the Albemarle Sound to the Virginia border. In 1712, the Lords Proprietors divided Carolina into **North Carolina** and South Carolina.

A **prominent** person is well known and important.

Huguenots were Protestants who lived in France in the 1500s and 1600s. Many fled the country because they were persecuted.

The **Palatinate** is an area in the upper Rhine Valley of present-day Germany.

Religious persecution is the harming or oppressing of people because of their religious beliefs.

During an **economic depression**, business activity

decreases, unemployment increases, and the amount of money people have decreases.

The **Scotch-Irish** were descendants of Scots who had moved to Northern Ireland.

Lowland Scots were from the Lowlands of Scotland. The Lowlands are located in the central and eastern part of Scotland.

Highland Scots were from the Highlands, or mountains, of Scotland.

Indigo is a blue dye made from indigo plants.

Naval stores are tar, pitch, rosin, and turpentine used to protect the wood and ropes of ships. Most of these products, which are made from pine trees, were made in the lower Cape Fear because that area had most of the state's longleaf pines.

Sounds are long, broad bodies of water that run parallel to the coast and separate bodies of land. In North Carolina, sounds and the Outer Banks separate the mainland from the ocean.

Subsistence farmers are farmers who produce just enough food and other items for themselves and their families to survive.

Expanding to the west: Settlement of the Piedmont Region, 1730 to 1775



By Christopher E. Hendricks and J. Edwin Hendricks

North Carolina settlers from Europe or of European descent remained mostly in the Coastal Plain Region until about forty years before the American Revolution (1775–1783). The fall line, with its waterfalls and rapids,

made traveling on rivers difficult and discouraged migration into the Piedmont from the Coastal Plain. But once settlers began arriving in the Piedmont, they came in great numbers and helped make North Carolina's population grow rapidly.

The colony's population more than doubled in the decade from 1765 to 1775.

The Piedmont stretches from the fall line westward to the edge of the Appalachian Mountains. This colonial **backcountry** differed from

the low-lying Coastal Plain. Its limestone and clay soils supported forests and grasslands. Its swift-flowing, shallow streams and narrow rivers were not good for boat traffic, but they offered excellent sites for mills and farms.

Though few roads ventured into the backcountry, two were vital to settlement of the region. The Great Indian Trading Path began in Petersburg, Virginia, and traveled southwest through the Piedmont to present-day Mecklenburg County. It had been used for centuries by Native Americans, and in the mid-1700s settlers began using it to travel into North Carolina. The second major road used by settlers was the Great Wagon Road, which stretched from Pennsylvania through

Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and into North Carolina.

European Migration

Initially the push for European settlement of the Piedmont came from English colonists living in the east. But Piedmont rivers such as the Broad, Catawba, and Yadkin/Pee Dee flowed south into South Carolina. That made communication and trade with the eastern part of the colony difficult and discouraged settlers from the Coastal Plain.

For this reason, only a few came inland from coastal towns, and by the 1730s Piedmont North Carolina was just starting to grow. Early Piedmont settlers were primarily Scotch-Irish and German people who were descendants of

Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia settlers. These settlers came down the Great Wagon Road. Many left their home colonies because suitable land in those colonies had become scarce and expensive.

The Scotch-Irish, or Ulster Scots, were descendants of Scots who had moved to Northern Ireland. They had prospered in Ireland until changes in English policies led many to migrate to America, where most settled in Pennsylvania. They began to arrive in North Carolina in the 1730s, leaving Pennsylvania after crops were harvested in the fall and arriving in the Piedmont in time to plant winter crops and seedlings that they brought with them.

On small farms these Scotch-Irish settlers grew corn for home use and

By the 1740s, Scotch-Irish and German settlers were traveling down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, commonly called just the Great Wagon Road, to North Carolina's Piedmont Region. The road was originally a path used by Native Americans. Look at the map (right) and follow its path from Philadelphia through Virginia, where it branched off into the Wilderness Road, and North Carolina to Augusta, Georgia. Which early North Carolina towns were founded along this road? Settlers traveling on this road often used Conestoga wagons (right, bottom) to carry their possessions. These wagons were very sturdy and able to travel on bumpy, muddy roads. The floors of Conestogas sloped toward the middle to prevent loads from sliding backward or forward when traveling up and down hills. The Scotch-Irish and German settlers who traveled down the Great Wagon Road were children or grandchildren of immigrants who had settled in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. They came south looking for cheap land to farm because land in their home colonies had become scarce and expensive. In North Carolina they often used Pilot Mountain (previous page, in the background) north of Salem as a landmark.



In 1752 Bishop August Gottlieb Spangenberg traveled in North Carolina from Edenton to the Blue Ridge Mountains in search of a place to locate a Moravian settlement. He chose a tract in Rowan County (present-day Forsyth County) and named it Wachovia. In 1753 Moravians from Pennsylvania began traveling down the Great Wagon Road to North Carolina to establish the settlements of Salem, Bethabara, and Bethania in Wachovia.



wheat and tobacco for use and for export. They raised livestock and drove them in large numbers to northern markets. Settlers built stores, **gristmills**, sawmills, and **tanneries**. Blacksmiths, carpenters, **coopers**, potters, rope makers, wagon makers, and **wheelwrights** established many local industries.

Brewers, **distillers**, weavers, hatters, tailors, and others practiced their trades either in isolated homes or in shops in towns.

Germans of Lutheran or German Reformed faiths came to Pennsylvania and then to the Piedmont for many of the same reasons as the Scotch-Irish. Most of the Lutherans



The Moravians were known for their food and music and fine crafts, such as this stove tile made in Salem between 1766 and 1800.

This map by John Abraham Collet shows settlement in the Piedmont Region by 1770.

Orient yourself by finding the mountains in the northwest, Cross Creek (present-day Fayetteville) in the southeast, and Virginia and the Dan River to the north.

Do you recognize any rivers or other landmarks? The Catawba and Yadkin Rivers made communication and trade with South Carolina easier than with eastern North Carolina. Do you see them?

What towns do you see on the map? Charlottesville (present-day Charlotte) appears on a map for the first time. Do you see it? Can you find the Moravian settlements in Wachovia?

Turn to the map of the Great Wagon Road on page 17 and try to find its path here, even though it is not marked. See if you can find part of the Great Indian Trading Path north of Charlottesville (it is labeled just "Trading Path"). After reading the article and looking at this map, do you think either of these two major roads encouraged trade with eastern North Carolina? Why or why not? What colonies would settlers in this area probably trade with? Why?





Robert Donnell was born in 1766 in York County, Pennsylvania, to Scotch-Irish parents. Like many other Scotch-Irish families, the Donnell family left Pennsylvania and traveled down the Great Wagon Road to North Carolina. He and his wife, Nancy McCabe Latta Donnell, settled in Guilford County.



settled in the area drained by the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers. Some joined members of German Reformed congregations in settling all across the backcountry.

Moravians, also from Germany and then Pennsylvania, arrived in present-day Forsyth County in 1753. They began building a well-planned, tightly controlled congregational community. Land was held **in common**, and crafts, occupations, and even marriages required approval from community boards. Salem and its outlying settlements prospered and provided neighbors with mills, **tanyards**, shops, **crafts**, medical care, fine music, and other economic and cultural amenities.

Many of the German settlers clustered together and preserved their native language in homes, churches, and schools. German publishers prospered in Salisbury and in Salem. Gradually many of the settlers adopted English-sounding names and switched to speaking the English language.

With very different cultures and religious beliefs, the Scotch-Irish and German groups established neighboring settlements and towns but had little contact with each other. They came in such numbers that six

new counties were created in the Piedmont between 1746 and 1763.

Settlers of English descent also came into the Piedmont. Two groups concentrated in the northern part. By 1754 English Quakers had organized the New Garden Monthly Meeting. This congregation attracted settlers from several counties in the Piedmont. The other English group included settlers from central Virginia, mostly Baptist, who arrived during and after the French and Indian War (1754–1763).

African American Settlement

Americans of African descent came to the Piedmont in small numbers during the colonial period, usually accompanying their masters from other areas. Many groups who had not previously owned slaves acquired slaves as their wealth increased and as neighboring slaveholders made the practice appear more acceptable. Rarely did colonial slaveholders in the Piedmont own more than a dozen slaves. In 1775, only fifteen thousand of the fewer than seventy thousand slaves in North Carolina lived west of the Coastal Plain. Most of the settlers in the Piedmont were small farmers and did not own slaves.

Development and Conflict

The ebb and flow of settlement in the Piedmont was influenced by two key events. The French and Indian War interrupted settlement when threats of Indian attacks frightened backcountry settlers into leaving their farms and fortifying their towns.

Then, in 1766, local conflicts erupted when backcountry settlers in the Piedmont, calling themselves Regulators, tried to fight government corruption, unclear land laws, and problems in the court system. They also opposed paying taxes to help build a governor's palace in the Coastal Plain at New Bern.

Eventually colonial royal governor William Tryon raised an army that fought the Regulators at the Battle of Alamance Creek in 1771. The Regulators were defeated, but their movement was an example of worsening tensions between the older eastern settlements and the rapidly growing backcountry to the west.

As the population of the Piedmont grew, so did its towns. While the majority of backcountry immigrants settled on farms, others settled in and established towns. Many towns were established along the two main roads in the region. The Moravian

villages of Bethabara (1753), Bethania (1756), and Salem (1766) were not far from the Great Wagon Road. Hillsborough (1754) and Charlotte (1766) were established on the Great Indian Trading Path. Salisbury was established in 1753 where the two roads crossed.

Most of these towns had stores, taverns, craft shops, churches, and schools. Salisbury, Hillsborough, and Charlotte were places for county courts to meet. On court days, people came into towns to trade, buy supplies, and socialize with friends.

Also in towns, as well as at large farms and crossroads stores, farm and craft products were gathered together for shipping to the coast. Once there, they were traded for goods and supplies that backcountry settlers could not produce for themselves. In a similar manner, flocks or

herds of livestock were gathered to be driven to distant markets.

Because of the geography of the Piedmont, much of this trade flowed outside the colony. Few roads connected the Piedmont with the Coastal Plain. Around Hillsborough, for example, many settlers sent goods up the Great Indian Trading Path into Virginia instead of to North Carolina ports such as Edenton. People living in the northwest Piedmont still found it easier to send goods north along the Great Wagon Road. Other goods from the Piedmont traveled on rivers that flowed into South Carolina.

Colonial and county officials were concerned about the destinations of goods from the Piedmont. They built or improved roads to courthouse towns, mills, and stores to make trade with the east easier. Their

efforts proved successful, and by 1760 Piedmont settlers were sending goods overland toward the coast. A 1773 pamphlet reported that "40 or 50" wagons filled with "beef, pork, and flower [flour] in barrels, also their live stock, Indian corn, raw hydes, butter, tallow, and whatever they have for market" were arriving daily in the small town of Cross Creek (present-day Fayetteville). These and other products, including wheat, deerskins, tobacco, naval stores, and flaxseed, were then loaded onto rafts and floated down the Cape Fear River to Wilmington.

By the 1770s, settlers in the North Carolina Piedmont occupied the best land. Seeking new land, other settlers began migrating to the Mountain Region of North Carolina and beyond.



One of the key events that influenced the settlement of the Piedmont was the Battle of Alamance Creek in 1771. This battle was fought between a group of backcountry settlers who called themselves Regulators and an army raised by royal governor William Tryon. The Regulators were fighting to "regulate" corrupt local officials appointed by the governor. They were also opposed to paying taxes to build a governor's palace in the Coastal Plain.

Definitions

The term **backcountry** refers to the area west of the fall line.

Gristmills are mills that grind grain.

Tanneries are places where animal skins are converted into leather.

Coopers are people who make or repair wooden barrels and casks that are used for shipping goods.

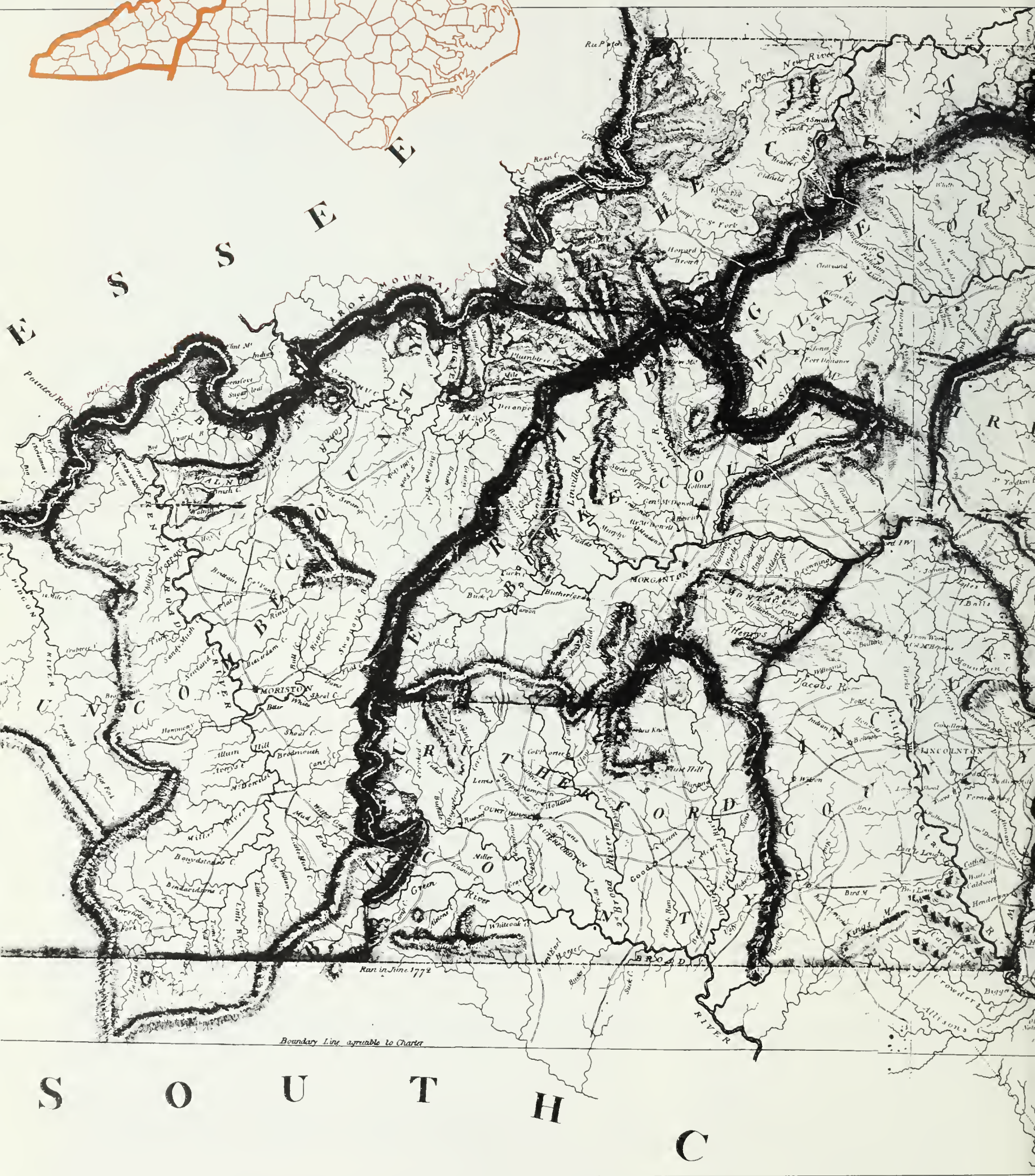
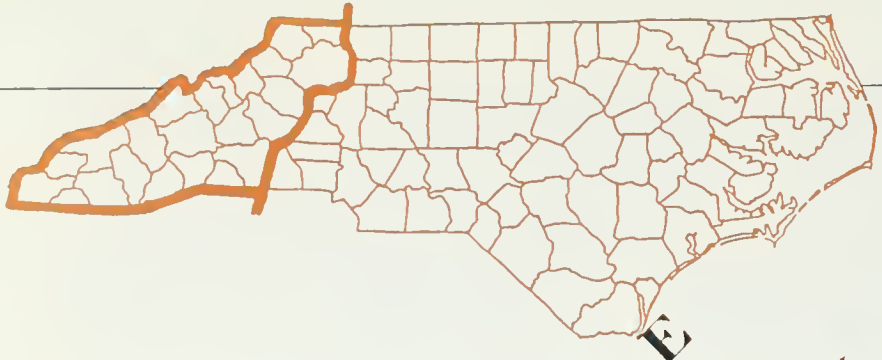
Wheelwrights make or repair wheels, wagons, and carriages.

Distillers are people who purify a liquid through evaporation and condensation to make alcohol.

Land that is held **in common** belongs equally to all.

Tanyards are parts of tanneries that contain tanning vats. These vats hold the liquids used for tanning and dyeing.

Crafts are skills or trades that require manual training and artistic skill.



North Carolina's final frontier: Settlement of the Mountain Region, 1775 to 1838

By Ron Holland



With some of the oldest and most complex geographical formations on earth, the Mountain Region of western North Carolina has many of the highest summits in eastern America. In fact, Yancey County's Mount Mitchell, in the Black Mountain range, is the highest point east of the Mississippi River. The Mountain Region consists of many mountain ranges, including the Blue Ridge, Black, Great Smoky, Balsam, and Nantahala Mountains. This beautiful land of peaks and valleys and forests and flowers was the last area of North Carolina to be settled by European Americans.

European Migration

The most prominent Native Americans to settle in the mountains of western present-day North Carolina were the Cherokee Indians. Their first known contact with Europeans occurred in 1540, when Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his men came to the mountains in search of gold. Following this brief encounter,

the Cherokee and Europeans had limited contact until the late 1600s. A thriving trade developed between the Cherokee and White settlers in the early 1700s.

Many Whites passed through the northwestern mountains and became permanent residents of the Watauga settlements (now in Tennessee) in the 1770s. But perhaps some of the earliest permanent White settlers in the North Carolina Mountain Region came to the Swannanoa area of what is now Buncombe County about 1784. Among these early settlers were the Davidsons, Alexanders, Gudgers, and Pattons.

As more Whites immigrated into the area just west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the late 1700s, the Cherokee who were living there moved west. As a result, White migration into present-day Buncombe, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties grew rapidly for a while.

The new settlers in the Mountains found it difficult to travel the steep,

rough, and muddy roads back and forth to their county seats in Rutherford, Burke, and Wilkes Counties. They had to go to these county seats to pay taxes, buy or sell land, go to court, or carry on other business. The settlers began to ask the legislature to establish new counties so they would not have to travel so far to county seats. In response, the legislature established Buncombe and Ashe Counties in 1792 and 1799 respectively. Morristown, or Moriston (present-day Asheville), was founded as the county seat of Buncombe County because it was centrally located at a major crossroad. Jefferson was named the county seat in Ashe County.

The settlers who came to the Mountains were primarily of English, Scotch-Irish, and German descent. They came to buy, settle, and farm the cheap, fertile bottomlands and hillsides in the region. Some migrated from the North Carolina Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.

This map (previous page) shows the Mountain Region. It is part of a map of the state of North Carolina that was surveyed by Jonathon Price and John Strother in 1808.

What towns, rivers, counties, or other landmarks can you find? Three major rivers are the French Broad, the Broad, and the Catawba. Can you find them? Can you find the names of some of the mountain ranges? The Blue Ridge, Bald, and Brushy ranges are labeled.

The Buncombe Turnpike followed the French Broad River north of Moriston (present-day Asheville). Can you find this trade route? Why was it better than other roads in the Mountain Region? Early tourists also used the Buncombe Turnpike to get to Warm Springs (present-day Hot Springs). Can you find Warm Springs?

In the 1820s and 1830s, what counties experienced one of the first gold rushes in America? Do you see them on the map?

They came by foot, wagon, or horseback, entering the area through **gaps** such as Swannanoa, Hickory Nut, Gillespie, and Deep Gaps.

Other English, Scotch-Irish, and German settlers came from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. They traveled down the Great Wagon Road to the Piedmont Region of North Carolina and then traveled west to reach the mountains.

African American Settlement

A small number of African American slaves were brought into the Mountain Region to work some of the larger farms. Robert Love of Haywood County, for example, owned one hundred slaves. But his case was an exception. Most farms were small and **self-sufficient**. Largely because traveling and getting crops to market were difficult and expensive on the rough, muddy roads, most farmers did not grow excess crops for trade and did not need slaves.

The Buncombe Turnpike and Gold!

Problems with travel and trade changed with the completion of the



The Mountain Region was the last part of North Carolina to be settled by European Americans. Many Scotch-Irish and Germans traveled down the Great Wagon Road and through gaps, or mountain passes, to settle there. This typical Scotch-Irish-design cabin (above) is a reconstruction of one built by David Vance in 1794 in Buncombe County. David Vance was the grandfather of Zebulon Vance, who was born in the original cabin and was elected governor of North Carolina in 1862, 1864, and 1876. Most of the settlers who immigrated to the Mountain Region came to find cheap land. According to this 1807 land grant (below), Thomas Pain bought four hundred acres in Wilkes County in 1779 for fifty shillings for each hundred acres, less than seven cents per acre. Can you read the handwritten description of the property boundary?

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

No 2175

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

Know Ye, THAT WE, for and in Consideration of the Sum of *Fifty Shillings* for every hundred Acres hereby granted, paid into our Treasury by *Thomas Pain* have given and granted, and by these Presents, do give and grant unto the said *Thomas Pain* a Tract of Land containing *Four hundred* Acres, lying and being in the County of *Wilkes*

On the Top of the blue ridge - at the head of peak Crutch, beginning at a white oak near a branch, running North two hundred and fifty ^{three} poles to a Stake, thence East Two hundred and fifty three poles to a Stake, thence South two hundred and fifty three poles to a Chestnut, thence to the first Station

Entered 3rd March 1779.

Buncombe Turnpike in 1827. The turnpike followed the French Broad River north of Asheville to reach Greenville, Tennessee. South of Asheville, the turnpike continued to Greenville, South Carolina. The turnpike was a better road than previous roads in the Mountain Region, which usually had been steep, narrow paths. It connected the North Carolina Mountain Region with other, larger markets.

Drovers were now able to drive surplus hogs, geese, or turkeys to markets outside the Mountain

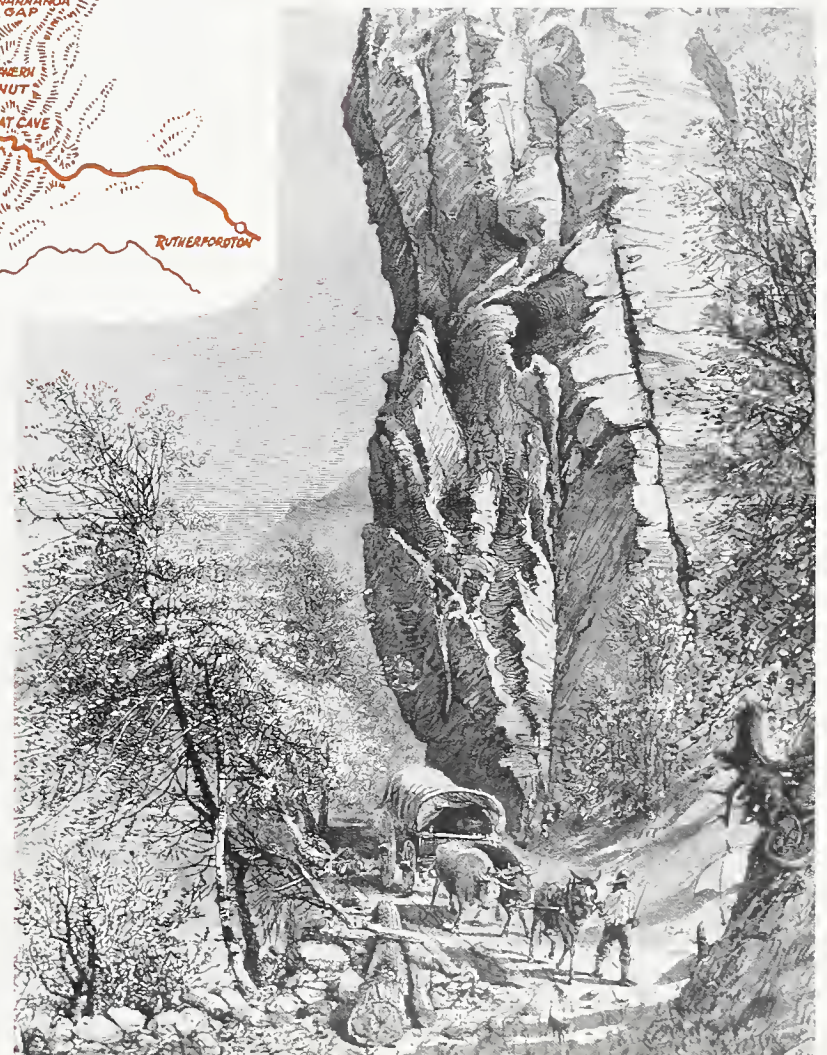
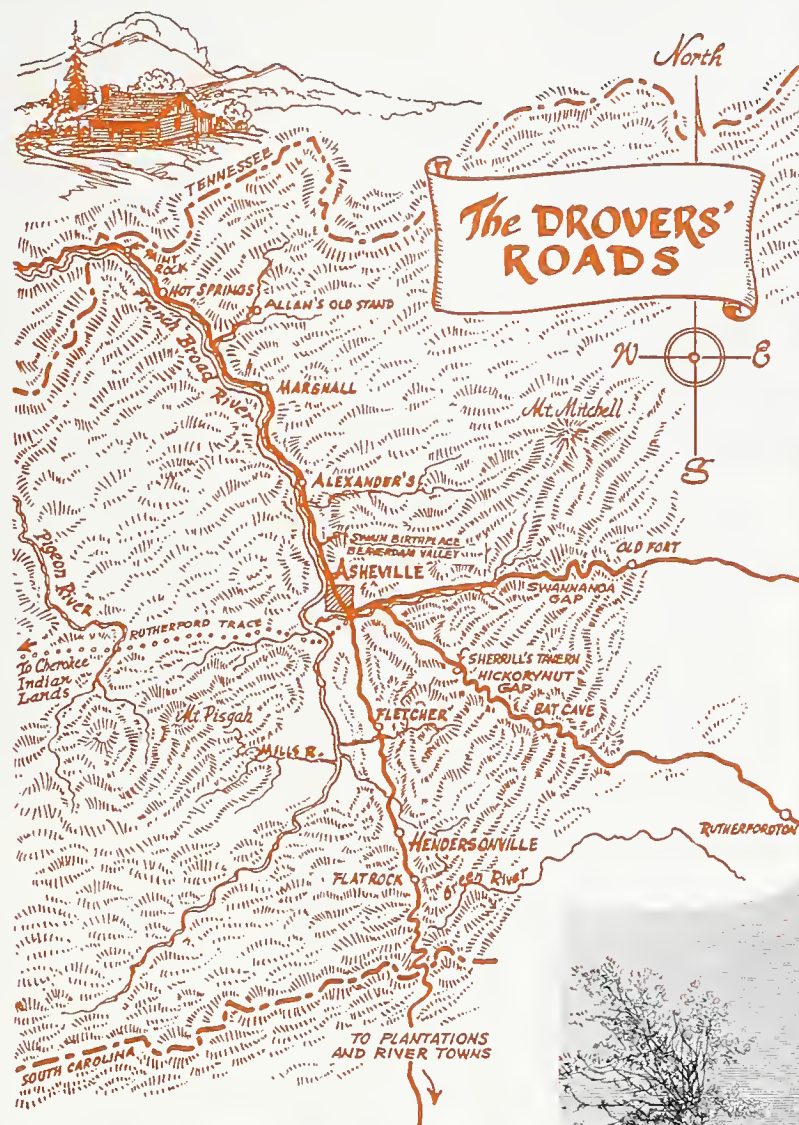
Region. Farmers could now use their wagons to transport crops to market. Tourists could now reach the mountains more easily. They could come in wagons, carriages, or stagecoaches, rather than on foot or horseback. Asheville and Warm Springs (now Hot Springs) became popular tourist destinations. Flat Rock attracted many summer residents from the Low Country of South Carolina, including Charleston.

The discovery of gold in western North Carolina brought an economic boom to the region in the 1820s and

1830s. Burke and Rutherford Counties experienced a gold rush in the mid-1820s when hundreds of miners arrived looking for gold. During this time, North Carolina became the leading gold-producing state. However, with the discovery of gold in California in the late 1840s, most of the miners left for California.

One famous immigrant who came to North Carolina during this gold rush was Christopher Bechtler Sr. He came to Rutherford County in 1830 with his son Augustus and a nephew, Christopher Jr. The

Getting livestock or crops to market was difficult on the rough, muddy roads of the Mountain Region (bottom, left). As a result, most farmers did not own large farms or need slaves to grow excess crops for sale. They lived in small cabins, raised their own crops, and hunted for their own food. Only a few drove hogs and other animals to local markets to sell. The creation of the Buncombe Turnpike in 1827 helped improve the economy of the region. Settlers could drive their hogs, geese, or turkeys to markets outside the Mountains (far right, top). Farmers could also get crops to markets (bottom, right). This map (right) shows the route of the Buncombe Turnpike through North Carolina. It also shows other roads used by drovers and two of the gaps used to reach the Piedmont. Can you find them? Tourists from Tennessee and South Carolina also used the Buncombe Turnpike to come to the North Carolina mountains. Warm Springs (present-day Hot Springs) and Asheville became popular tourist destinations.





The discovery of gold in western North Carolina in 1799 led to America's first gold rush and brought many settlers to Burke and Rutherford Counties in the 1820s and 1830s. Christopher Bechtler Sr., his son, and a nephew came to Rutherford County from Philadelphia in 1830. They coined over two million dollars worth of gold and created the first one-dollar gold coin in the United States.

Bechtlers were experienced metalworkers who had immigrated from Germany to Philadelphia shortly before coming to Rutherford County.

A short time after opening a jewelry shop in Rutherfordton, Christopher Sr. apparently realized that the regional economy was hurt by a lack of gold coins for use in trade. At the time, people in North Carolina were often using gold dust, nuggets, and jewelry as **currency**. Few people dared to make the long trip to the United States Mint in Philadelphia, where gold could be made into coins.

As a result, the Bechtlers decided to **coin** gold. They made their own **dies** and a press and **struck** \$5.00, \$2.50, and \$1.00 gold pieces. Between 1831 and 1840, the Bechtlers coined \$2,241,840.50 and processed an additional \$1,384,000.00 in gold. Because of their success a branch of the United States Mint was established in Charlotte in 1837.

Development and Conflict

During the first three decades of the 1800s, economic and political conditions were poor. A steady stream of emigrating North Carolinians passed through the Mountain Region headed for points west.

North Carolina political conditions were affected by sectionalism, or conflict between the eastern and western sections of the state. At the time, each county, regardless of population, elected one representative to the state senate and two representatives to the North Carolina House of Commons. The east had more counties and, as a result, more representatives who could outvote representatives from the west.

By 1830 the western part of the state had more people, but the east continued to control the government. Calls for a constitutional convention were defeated repeatedly until 1834 when western counties threatened to revolt and **secede** from the state if a convention was not called.

Fortunately, a convention was called in 1835. The convention reformed the state constitution and created a more democratic government. The east would continue to control the senate, whose members were now elected from districts. These districts were created according to the amount of tax paid to the state. Because the east was wealthier and paid more taxes, it had more districts. But the west would control the population-based house because it had more people. Since neither the east nor the west could now control the entire government, the two sections were forced to cooperate. These changes benefited the western part of the state.

It was also during this period, in 1838, that the federal government forced a majority of the Cherokee in the region to move to present-day Oklahoma. Thousands of Cherokee died in the journey west. Although a remnant of the Cherokee were able to stay behind, Whites soon began to settle on the Cherokee land, which was fertile and cheap.

By the 1830s, transportation in the Mountains had improved and conflict between the east and west had decreased. But the Mountain Region remained relatively isolated for another fifty years until railroad lines reached the area.



Definitions

Gaps are breaks in mountain ranges. They are sometimes called mountain passes.

People who are **self-sufficient** can meet their basic needs to live without help from others. For instance, they grow their own food, make their own clothes, and build their own homes.

A **turnpike** is a toll road. People traveling on a turnpike must pay a toll, or fee, to use it.

Drovers are people who **drive**, or lead, cattle, sheep, hogs, geese, or other animals to market.

Currency is a substance that is accepted as payment for goods or services.

To **coin** gold means to make gold coins. The Bechtlers made, or **struck**, coins using **dies** to shape, cut, punch, and stamp gold pieces.

To **secede** means to withdraw, or separate, from a group.

Searching for greener pastures: Out-migration in the 1800s and 1900s

By Donald R. Lennon and Fred D. Ragan

Frederick Marryat, an English visitor traveling through the Ohio Valley in 1838, was

surprised at the stream of emigration which appears to flow from North Carolina to Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Every hour you meet with a caravan of emigrants from that sterile but healthy state. Every night the banks of the Ohio are lighted up with their fires.

Marryat's observations were not unusual during the first half of the 1800s. North Carolina was the third most populous state in the Union in 1790, but by 1860 it had dropped to twelfth in population. Hundreds of thousands of White North Carolinians fled the state during those years, seeking cheap, fertile land in Tennessee, western Georgia, Indiana, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, and other **trans-Allegheny** states and territories. Thirty percent of North Carolina's native-born population, amounting to more than four hundred thousand persons, was living outside of the state in 1860.

European American Out-Migration

The migration west actually began before the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), as adventurous North Carolinians followed Daniel Boone in search of new frontiers beyond the mountains. After the war, veterans of the Revolution were rewarded with free land in what became Tennessee. **Land speculators** also rushed into that area in search of wealth.

Among these speculators were members of the Polk family of Mecklenburg County. By 1806 Samuel Polk and his young family joined their kinsmen on the Tennessee frontier. Sam's oldest child was eleven-year-old James K. Polk. Born in North Carolina, he

The number of North Carolinians leaving the state increased after the War of 1812. One reason was that farmers were having trouble making a living. They did not have good roads to get their crops to market. They also had used up the nutrients in their soil by growing the same crops in the same fields year after year. The state was doing nothing to help or educate these farmers, so hundreds of thousands left.



went on to become the eleventh president of the United States.

After the War of 1812, the caravans of wagons moving west increased, but the reasons were different. North Carolina had become known as the **Rip Van Winkle State**. State leaders opposed spending tax money on schools, roads, agricultural reforms, or any other form of economic advancement. Their opposition hurt the state's people. Without good roads to get crops to market, farmers could not make profits. Without progressive leadership in agricultural reforms, farmers did not learn about the importance of **crop rotation**. Instead, they continued old farming practices that used up nutrients in the soil and exhausted the land. Although newspapers and reformers pointed out the high degree of ignorance and poverty in which people lived, state leaders seemed to pay no attention to the needs of the people.

Disgusted by the state's do-nothing policy, farmers gave up on their exhausted lands and moved



Does this man look familiar? He is claimed as one of North Carolina's native sons. But in the early 1800s, his family actually left Mecklenburg County and moved west to present-day Tennessee. In 1790 North Carolina was the third most populous state. By 1860 it ranked twelfth. One of the reasons so many people emigrated was because state leaders were spending no money on internal improvements. North Carolina became known as the Rip Van Winkle State.

This building is a reconstruction of the home in Mecklenberg County where James K. Polk was born in 1795. Polk served as eleventh president of the United States from 1845 to 1849. The building is now a state historic site.



west, where they could find cheaper, more fertile land to farm. In 1834 a Raleigh newspaper reported that "our roads are thronged with emigrants to a more favored Country." As late as 1845, a Greensboro newspaper proclaimed, "On last Tuesday morning nineteen carts, with about one hundred persons, passed this place, from Wake County, on their way to the West."

Marryat, the English visitor, wrote

these caravans consist of two or three covered wagons, full of women and children, furniture, and other necessities, each drawn by a team of horses; brood mares, with foals by their sides, following, half a dozen or more cows, flanked on each side by the men, with their long rifles on their shoulders, sometimes a boy or two, or a half-grown girl on horseback.

Young, energetic, and ambitious citizens were leaving. Many of these talented North Carolinians later became presidents, vice presidents, and cabinet members of the United States government, as well as governors and congressmen for their adopted states. Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson were among the future leaders who left.

Conditions in North Carolina did not begin to improve until a progressive political leadership gained control of the state in 1835. The state constitution was rewritten to create a state and local government that was more democratic and responsive to the people. Even then, progress was slow.

In 1840 the first public school was established. Soon railroads were introduced, with tracks stretching across the state. **Plank roads** and other internal improvements developed. Manufacturing began to flourish. At last North Carolina could shake its Rip Van Winkle image. Once White North Carolinians felt they could prosper at home, the massive emigration of White citizens out of the state began to decline.



In the 1840s and 1850s, plank roads and railroads improved transportation in North Carolina and cut the cost of getting goods to market in half. As a result, farmers now could make a profit. Manufacturing also began to improve. Since White North Carolinians now felt that they could prosper at home, the number of White emigrants leaving the state decreased.

Many settlers who left North Carolina were not as happy as they expected to be in their new homes. The trips were often longer than expected, and after arriving, life was often more difficult and crops less abundant than expected.

In this 1807 letter (next page), Sarah Williams tells her daughter in Halifax County that she has arrived safely in Tennessee. What else can you discover about the times by reading this primary source document?

In an 1839 letter written in Haywood County, Tennessee, to his family in North Carolina, William Brinson complains of his new life in Tennessee. He writes that much of the land that has been cleared is washing away and is exhausted. He warns his family,

You need not believe Everything that you hear about this country, for I will assure you that there is a great many people here that would fane be back to there old Residence if they could go in the same Situation that they left them in.

He adds that things are expensive and people who come to Tennessee hoping to make money often do not. He writes,

Those that were poor when they came they remain so. . . . I will say to you I hope you will all be content where you are for you are in a better farming country than this and a much healthier a one. . . . I would like very much to see you and think Likely I shall if we all Live for I do not like this country

Dear Daughter

Wagon County - March 29th 1867

After a long and tiresome journey of
six weeks and three days we arrived safe in Concord
(save the death of Old Abram and little Charles) I turned
over the chair only once, but sustained no damage
No one can possibly conceive how bad the roads were,
owing to the great number of movers to this Country. I should
rejoice much to see you and all the family, but I fear I
never shall. The length of the way and the good fire you
are in will be a sufficient inducement to stay and spend
in peace the few remaining days of your life. Your brother
William was married to Sally Philips in February last
They live with Mr. Philips yet they do not know when
they will go, as a sad misfortune happened to Mr.
Philips on Saturday night - the 25th of March. about 15
minutes before day Mrs. Philips was awakened by a
noise which proceeded from the kitchen, which joined
the dwelling house, she arose and opened the door, when
a volume of fire burst in her room, she gave the
alarm, but the wind being high, and the kitchen in
light blaze it was impossible to extinguish it. They lost
many valuable things, among which was a very elegant
clock, ^{also} tables, china and many cloths. Our Country abounds
in meat and bread, other things scarce. If Mr. Williams
visits this Country send some damson plum seed, as there is none
in this Country. I should be satisfied if you were here
nothing more only my love to you and family old Mr. Willi-
ams your Father in Law and all friends. Josiah and Elisha
join in love to you and Mr. Williams also the boys
Your loving mother Sarah Williams



In the last quarter of the 1800s, more than one hundred thousand African Americans left North Carolina. They left because most could not make a good living in the state and because they faced political repression. This 1890 drawing (right) shows a group of emigrants waiting at a North Carolina train station. The Ku Klux Klan was a White organization that terrorized Blacks in order to discourage them from voting and to make them defer to Whites. This Klan mask (above) from the 1870s was worn by a Klan member who lived in Person County. The Klan helped create the repressive environment that caused many African Americans to leave.



African American Out-Migration

The out-migration of African Americans increased after the Civil War (1861–1865). The war brought freedom for former slaves but did not satisfy their desire for a better life. Faced with poverty and a political environment that was becoming more and more **repressive**, many North Carolina Blacks moved north, where they could find better opportunities. During the last quarter of the 1800s, approximately one hundred thousand African Americans emigrated from the Tar Heel State.

An extreme example of North Carolina's repressive political environment is represented by the 1898 Wilmington race riot. In the 1890s farm prices had declined, which meant that farmers were making less money by selling their crops. Farmers protested by forming a new political party, the Populist Party, that challenged the Democratic and Republican Parties. In the 1896 state elections, Populists and Republicans elected a number of African American officials. A Republican governor also was elected. Democrats charged that the state had fallen under "Black domination."

Two years later, in the 1898 election, Democrats tried to frighten White voters by saying that African Americans were going to rule the state if the Democrats lost. **Red Shirts** paraded on horseback with weapons in full view to **intimidate** Black voters. Some Blacks rejected the threat and spoke out. Alex Manly, the militant and progressive editor of the *Wilmington Daily Record*, was among them.

Democrats won the election. Soon afterward a mob of four hundred Whites demolished Manly's newspaper office, shot up the African American section of town, killed and wounded a large number of Blacks, and drove hundreds from their homes. Hundreds more, including Manly, fled Wilmington.

In 1900, White voters changed the state constitution by requiring that anyone who registered to vote had to pay a **poll tax** and take a literacy test. The voters also passed a



“grandfather clause.” This clause stated that if a person failed the literacy test, that person could still vote if he, his father, or his grandfather had voted before January 1, 1867. African Americans who had been slaves were not able to vote before 1867. Even free Blacks had lost the right to vote in 1835. As a result, these changes in the constitution **disfranchised** Blacks much more than Whites.

The Tar Heel State also began to pass **Jim Crow laws** that required segregation, or separation of different races. On buses, in theaters, at restaurants, and in other public places, African Americans could not sit with Whites. Instead they were forced to sit in separate sections. They had to attend separate schools, which were usually underfunded. They were not allowed to work at the same jobs as Whites.

In response to all of these problems, large numbers of Blacks left the South. Between World War I (1914–1918) and the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of African Americans left southern states. So many left that the movement was called “The Great Migration.” Between 1910 and 1950, approximately 280,000 Black citizens left North Carolina. Their destinations varied, but large numbers went to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. Many of the same reasons that encouraged earlier Blacks to leave

continued to influence these citizens. Discrimination, low wages, and inferior housing and schools exerted a powerful push to leave.

Other factors also contributed to their emigration. In the 1920s and 1930s, the devastation of cotton crops by **boll weevils** and the gradual replacement of farmworkers with machines left many Black farmworkers unemployed. **New Deal** farm policies tried to help farmers by driving up the prices of farm goods. These policies limited the number of acres that a farmer could work and limited how much of a crop a farmer could grow. But these changes eliminated agricultural jobs and left many unemployed. These unemployed people often went north to find work.

During World War II (1941–1945) the military draft and increased job opportunities in the North also pulled at Blacks. Those who were drafted to fight in the war often were sent north, with other soldiers, to train for battle. While there, many saw better opportunities and decided to remain after the war. Others went to the North to work in growing defense industries.

Ambitious and talented Black families were among those leaving. Many native North Carolinians made significant contributions to their new states. For example, lawyer, publisher, and journalist Robert L. Vann founded the *Pittsburgh Courier*. Wilson Goode became mayor of

The 1898 Wilmington race riot was an extreme example of the political repression that African Americans faced. A mob of Whites destroyed the newspaper office of Alex Manly (above), killed and wounded a large number of Blacks, and drove many from their homes. Several hundred, including Manly, left Wilmington. Until the 1960s, Jim Crow laws required segregation, or the separation of races. African Americans had to attend Black schools, which were usually underfunded, and had to sit in separate sections of restaurants, buses, theaters, and other public places. The California Restaurant in Raleigh (next page) had a separate entrance for Blacks. Segregation was one force that drove hundreds of thousands of African Americans to leave the South between the start of World War I and the 1960s. Since the Civil Rights movement, barriers to better economic and educational opportunities have begun to fall in North Carolina.

Philadelphia. John Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, and Roberta Flack made important contributions to music.

With the advances made by the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, the end of segregation, and the growth of jobs in the **Sun Belt** region in the 1970s, North Carolina's African Americans have received much less of a push out of the state than in earlier times. Barriers to better economic and educational opportunities are falling in North Carolina. With improvements at home, many now feel that they can prosper and have the full life promised by the American dream in North Carolina.



Definitions

The area west of the Allegheny Mountain range in the Appalachian Mountains is referred to as the **trans-Allegheny** region.

Land speculators are people who buy large tracts of land in the hope that the value of the land will increase. If the value of the land does increase, lucky speculators will make a big profit as they sell off pieces. Many speculators are not that lucky.

Rip Van Winkle was a character from Washington Irving's *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* who slept for twenty years. In the early 1800s North Carolina was called the Rip Van Winkle State because its government seemed to be asleep and was not helping the people.

Crop rotation is a practice of moving, or rotating, crops to different fields each year to save nutrients in the soil and preserve soil productivity.

Plank roads were roads made of thick pine boards and covered with sand.

A **repressive** environment prevents people from expressing themselves as they would like.

Red Shirts were a group of men who were loyal to the Democratic Party during the 1898 and 1900 elections

in North Carolina. They wore bright red flannel shirts and rode their horses through African American sections of towns to frighten Black voters and prevent them from voting.

To **intimidate** someone is to frighten that person intentionally.

A **poll tax** is a fee that must be paid for the right to vote.

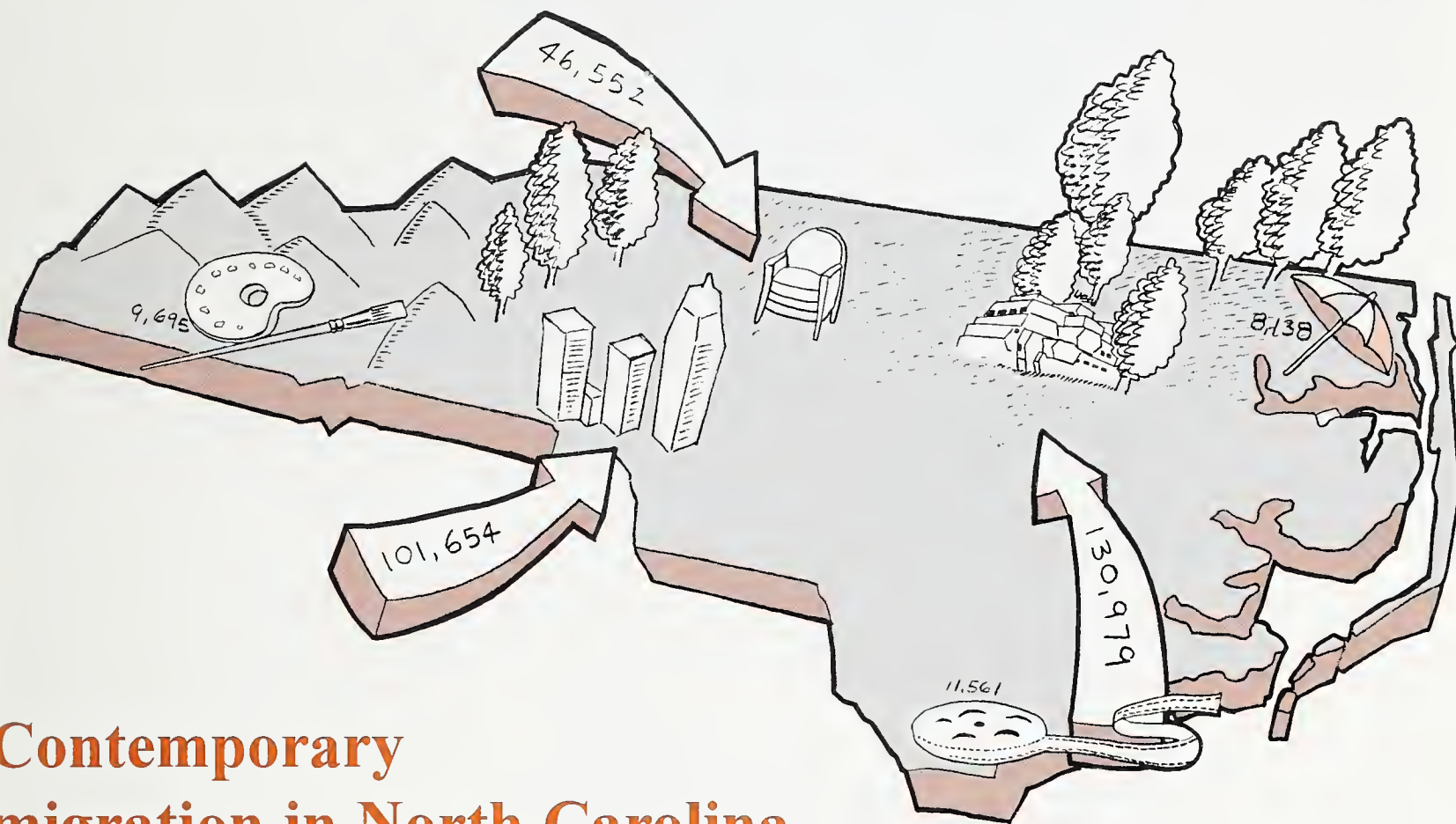
When people lose the right to vote, they are said to be **disfranchised**.

Jim Crow laws made segregation legal during most of the 1800s. These laws were upheld and reinforced by an 1896 Supreme Court decision that upheld separate-but-equal principles in racial segregation.

Boll weevils are insects that attack and eat cotton bolls, which contain the white fiber of cotton plants.

Policies adopted by the federal government to help the economy during the Great Depression were known as **New Deal** policies.

Sun Belt is a term created in the 1970s to describe the "sunny," warm South. During the 1970s, increases in energy costs led many industries in the North to move South to save money.



Contemporary migration in North Carolina

By Alfred W. Stuart and Laura Baum

Did you know that, until recently, more people emigrated out of North Carolina than immigrated in? In the early 1800s, hundreds of thousands of European Americans left. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, more than 380,000 African Americans emigrated out. This trend of **out-migration** continued until the last decade. Between 1950 and 1960, 327,838 more people left North Carolina than moved in. Between 1960 and 1970, this drain fell to just over 94,000 people. Between 1980 and 1990, North Carolina actually had a **net in-migration** of 374,354 people.

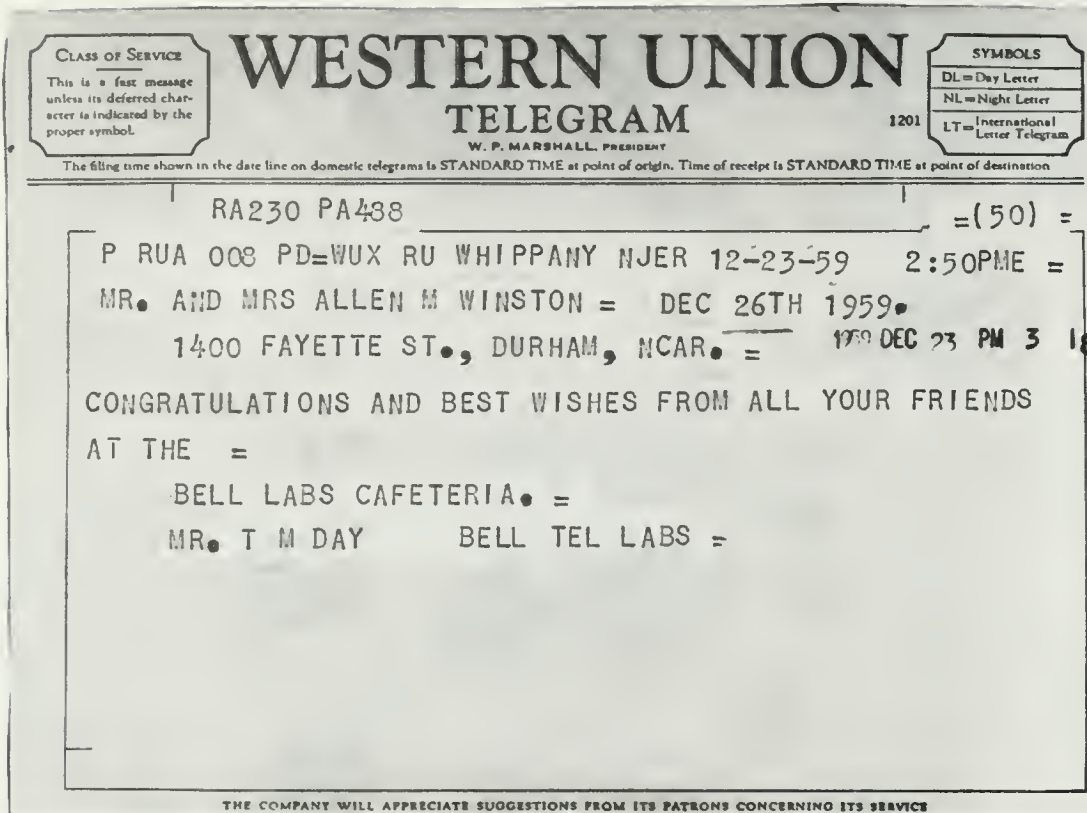
What has caused this population tilt, or reversal of past trends? The main cause is the creation of new jobs, primarily in factories, offices,

and stores in the state's cities. The growth of industries in and around Charlotte, the Piedmont **Triad**, and the Research **Triangle** has attracted workers from across the country and even from around the world.

Growth through Immigration

Who are these people who are immigrating to North Carolina today? Many are African Americans whose families once left the state and are now returning to find jobs, to retire, or to improve their quality of life. The end of segregation in the South in the 1960s has made more of the new jobs available to African Americans. A lessening of racial tension has also made life in the South more attractive. Meanwhile, racial problems, crime, violence, a decline in jobs, and disappointment

Most of the people immigrating to North Carolina settle in or near cities. Other people who are already North Carolina residents are migrating to cities from rural areas. Why? In these urban areas, people can more easily find jobs and a diverse social environment. The illustration above shows the fastest growing areas in North Carolina: (clockwise from far left) Asheville, the Piedmont Triad, Research Triangle, Dare County, Wilmington, and Charlotte. The numbers show how many people moved into those areas between 1980 and 1990 from all across the country, from within the state, and from around the world.



African Americans Allen Winston and Doshie Winston returned to North Carolina to retire in 1959. This telegram is from their former coworkers at Bell Labs in New Jersey congratulating them on their retirement. With the end of segregation and advances made by the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, many more African Americans are coming to North Carolina to retire or to find work.

with the quality of life in urban areas of the North have led many Black North Carolinians to return home. Many African Americans say that they are returning to be with family members they left behind, to find work, and to find safer schools and communities than they could find in the North.

People of other races are also coming to North Carolina from the North and Midwest to find work. In the past twenty years or so, jobs in those areas have declined, while jobs in North Carolina, especially near its cities, have increased.

Still other people are coming to North Carolina from other countries to find work or to escape persecution in their home countries. The fastest growing segment of these **in-migrants** has been Asian, with their population more than doubling between 1980 and 1990 from 21,168 to 52,166 people.

More than 8,000 Asian people came to North Carolina as refugees from Southeast Asian countries that were affected by the Vietnam War (1964–1975). Many South Vietnamese fled their country as America withdrew from the area in 1975.

Thousands of Cambodians left their country after the Khmer Rouge overthrew their American-backed government.

More than 400 Dega men, who had helped American forces fight in the highlands of South Vietnam, came to North Carolina in 1986 and 1994 and now live in Raleigh, Greensboro, and Charlotte.

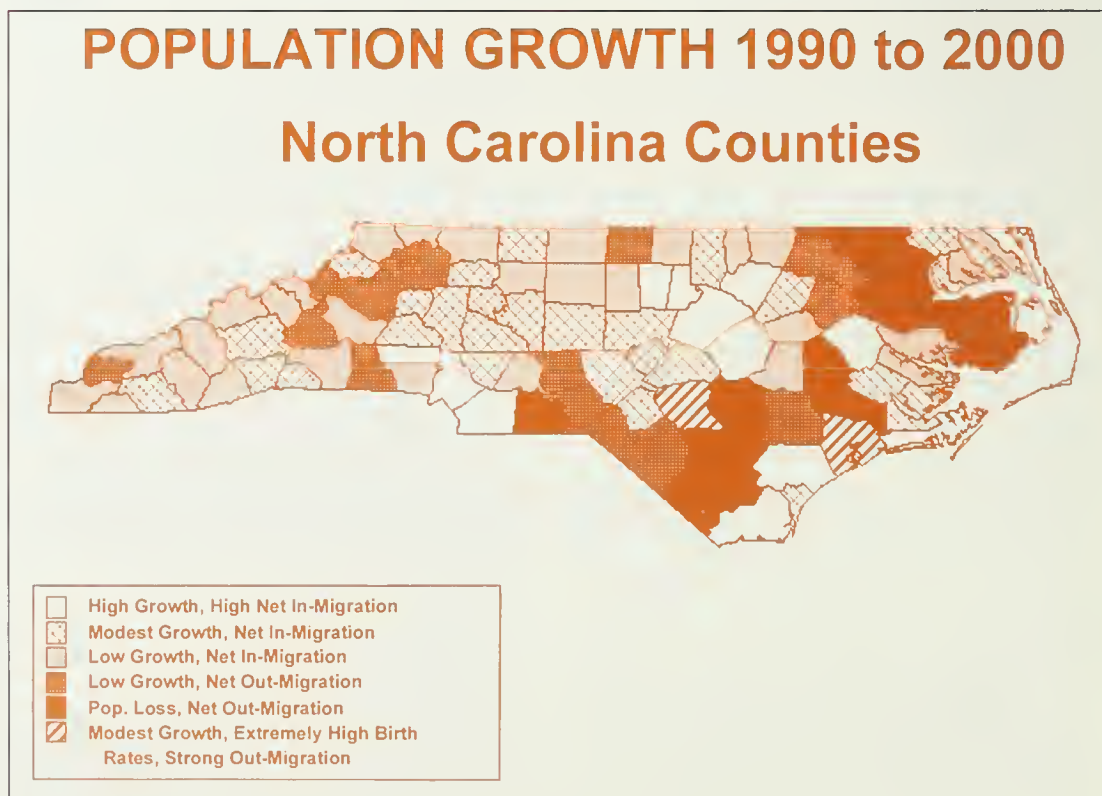
Lao and Hmong refugees now living in North Carolina helped fight a North Vietnamese-backed, Communist movement in Laos. They fled Laos in 1975 when communist forces gained power and began persecuting them. Many resettled elsewhere in the United States before coming to North Carolina to get away from the crime and unemployment they found in larger inner cities.

In the last thirty to forty years, other Asians, including Japanese, Koreans, and Chinese, have come to North Carolina to go to school and to work. Many Japanese and Koreans came when their companies in Japan and Korea opened branches or started factories in the state.

People from countries such as India and countries in the Middle East have also come to North Carolina to go to schools here and to find work.

Another group of people who have come to North Carolina are people of **Hispanic** heritages. In 1990, the number of Hispanics living in the state reached 76,726, a 35.5 percent jump over 1980. Though some Hispanics have come from Cuba and South and Central America, the majority of Hispanics in North Carolina are from Mexico.

The first Hispanics to come to North Carolina in the twentieth





People from all over the world are coming to North Carolina and bringing traditions with them. Can you read the different languages that advertise the restaurants in this illustration (left)? From left to right, the languages shown are English, Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese. This map (previous page, bottom) shows the population changes that are predicted in North Carolina between 1990 and 2000. Which counties have the highest in-migration? Which ones show out-migration? What do you think is causing the migration into or out of these counties?

century were Cubans. In the 1960s they came to America fleeing the socialist revolution in Cuba that had put Fidel Castro in power.

In the mid-1970s and early 1980s, a recession hit Mexico. Many Mexicans left their country to look for jobs in the United States. Many went to California looking for agricultural work. Soon, there were more immigrants looking for work in California than there were jobs available for them.

At the same time, North Carolina farmers began looking for **migrant labor** to help them harvest tobacco and crops such as sweet potatoes, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Mexicans in California and throughout the United States heard about the jobs through family and friends who had already migrated to North

Carolina. They began moving to the state and to other states on the East Coast where they could find jobs.

In 1985 the federal government passed a law that offered **amnesty** to agricultural workers who could prove they had worked ninety consecutive workdays in the field. Those who applied for amnesty became legal residents and could apply for permanent citizenship. They could not be **deported**. The law helped Mexican migrants already working in the United States and may have encouraged others to come as well. This law lasted for only a limited time.

In recent years, professional workers have come from Mexico and Central and South America to North Carolina hoping to earn more money in their jobs. Many other Hispanics

have come to North Carolina fleeing civil war in their home countries. These people include emigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru. People from Colombia and Venezuela have come fleeing economic and political problems in their countries.

Change through In-State Migration

Most of the state's population growth has occurred in urban areas. Net in-migration of all people between 1980 and 1990 was led by the larger **metropolitan** counties, especially Wake (Raleigh), with 94,890 in-migrants, Mecklenburg (Charlotte), with 68,881, and Durham (Durham), with 19,166. The total growth rate of the state's thirteen metropolitan counties was more than double that of the rest of the state.

Though many of these people are immigrating to North Carolina's cities from other states or other countries, many are coming from North Carolina's rural areas. They, too, migrate looking for work. Many of those leaving rural areas are African Americans.

All of these migrations have enriched the culture of North Carolina. Restaurants and grocery stores featuring Mexican, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Indian, Middle Eastern, and other ethnic foods are becoming more popular. Many local businesses now carry items that these new citizens need. Different languages are heard on city streets and college campuses and in bilingual school classes. People from different backgrounds live near each other, go to school together, and work together.

The people immigrating to North Carolina today are only the state's latest arrivals. They are a continuation of the flood of people who first started migrating here hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

At gatherings like Native American Pow Wows, the Scottish Highland Games on Grandfather Mountain, and international festivals, North Carolina settlers from all over the world get together to share their traditions and heritages and educate each other about their original homelands.



Definitions

Out-migration is the term used to discuss the movement of people out from an area.

A **net in-migration** means that more people, or **in-migrants**, moved into an area than moved out.

The Piedmont **Triad** refers to Greensboro, High Point, and Winston-Salem and the areas around those cities.

The Research **Triangle** refers to Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill and the areas around those cities.

Hispanic people are people of Spanish-speaking descent.

Migrant labor refers to people who move often to find work. They usually help to harvest seasonal crops.

When a government offers **amnesty**, it offers pardon to a group of people. To issue a pardon, the government forgives, or excuses, penalties.

To be **deported** is to be forced to leave a country if you are not a legal resident.

A **metropolitan** area includes a large city and its suburbs.

Meet the authors

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